



## Post parade of children kicks off special month

Hundreds of children open Month of Military Child celebration

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# Fort Riley Post

## Dragons win opener against Enforcers

Battalion soccer play under way.

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Friday, April 9, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

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**Worship at daybreak**  
Easter Sunrise Service will be at 6:30 a.m. April 11 in Morris Hill Chapel

## Around The Army

**Walter Reed: Patients learn new game**

The Stripe reported April 2 that patients at Walter Reed Army Medical Center were introduced to wheelchair basketball as part of a community outreach program of the Wagner Sports Center.

Members of Disabled Sports U.S.A. taught the servicemembers the basics of wheelchair basketball and encouraged them to get involved in whatever sporting activities they like.

After learning the basics, participants got a chance to team up with members of a local league for a game.

"It was pretty fun. I enjoyed it," said Spc. Brandon Olson.

For more about this story and other news at Walter Reed Army Medical Center, visit [www.dcmilitary.com/army/stripe](http://www.dcmilitary.com/army/stripe) on the Internet.

**Fort Dix: Post mission, RIF top agenda**

The Post at Fort Dix reported April 7 that top agenda items for a town hall meeting included the post's future and the ongoing reduction in force at the post.

Beverly Wozniak, director of the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center at Fort Dix, reported that RIF actions resulting from commercial activities studies were on track and should be completed by the deadline date of Sept. 30.

Col. David Lowry, installation commander, reported that briefings to the Army Basing Study Team were positive. The team's visit to Fort Dix is part of the first level of work for base realignment and closure activities undertaken by the Department of Defense. Most of the team's questions concerned expansion of the Dix-McGuire-Lakehurst trio, the paper reported.

For more information about this story and more Fort Dix news, visit [www.dix.arm.mil/PAO/Post04](http://www.dix.arm.mil/PAO/Post04) on the Internet.

**Fort Knox: General warns about schools**

Inside the Turret reported April 7 that the post commander, Maj. Gen. Terry Tucker, is concerned about the future of the Fort Knox Community Schools and what he sees as apparent apathy toward that possibility.

"We have all known about this upcoming decision for several months," he wrote. "Currently, I see little interest from the Fort Knox families or the community. The lack of parent engagement will make the decision easier...."

Tucker and the garrison commander, Col. Keith Armstrong, have gone on record against the possible school closures.

For more about this and other news at Fort Knox, visit [www.thenewsenterprise.com](http://www.thenewsenterprise.com) on the Internet.

## Girl's essay wins national prize



Scott Tozier

By Claudia Bullard  
105th MPAD

What started as a few words penned out of loneliness by a Fort Riley elementary student turned into a \$1,000 award and an appearance on NBC's "The Today Show."

Amber Tozier, a 10-year-old fifth-grader at Morris Hill Ele-

mentary, wrote an essay about her father, Staff Sgt. Scott Tozier, who had been deployed to Iraq since March 2003.

Tozier won the grand prize for children of Soldiers in a contest sponsored by the National Military Family Association and the Sears American Dream Campaign.

The essay titled "Why I am Proud of My Family Member Serving for the Armed Forces,"

will be published in an upcoming book, "A Tribute to Military Families." Sales of the book will assist Sears in donating \$2 million to the National Military Families Association.

The soft-spoken youth admitted she is very close to her father and said she missed how the two of them played in the front yard for hours. She said she wrote her essay mid-way through her dad's deployment.

Tozier's father is assigned to Battery C, 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division and has been in the Army eight years. He has spent two of those years stationed at Fort Riley.

Tozier wrote about how her dad had helped people after a hurricane during a previous stateside mission and how he



Amber Tozier

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## Happy tears



Post/Skidmore

Spc. Nicholas Hughes, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, has an emotional reunion with his mother, Pam Wilson (right) and fiancée Regina Reeves April 2, in Hanger 817.

## Emotions wash away a year of worry, loneliness

By Gary Skidmore  
Command Info. Officer

Spc. Nicholas Hughes, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 13th

Armor, is back from Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Hughes is a rough-looking Soldier, the kind who looks like he could handle combat on a daily basis. His skin is weathered and tanned from months in

the Iraqi sun. According to his mother, Pam Wilson, he's got a few more wrinkles, mostly around the eyes, like crow's feet, only more prominent because of his tan.

The Soldier called them age

lines because it had been a long year.

Hughes is a veteran of the war, a witness to more than he cares to share. He's toughened,

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## Armor crews named top guns

Speedy target acquisition, communication help on range

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Chair drills that sharpened crew communication played a major role in four Soldiers being named the top guns of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, during a battalion awards ceremony March 31, in Barlow Theater.

Headquarters 66, the battalion commander's tank and crew, scored 969 points of a possible 1,000 points during Tank Table 8 qualifications. The crew consists of tank commander Lt. Col. Oscar Hall, gunner Sgt. James Peacock, driver Spc. Bryan Blanks and loader Pfc. Billy Alexander.

The Army uses Tank Table 8 to evaluate the proficiency of its individual tank crews. It places the crews on a live-fire range to find and fire upon enemy troop and weapons targets.

Peacock, Blanks and Alexander joined ranks on Headquarters 66 this past September. It's the second time they've attacked Table 8 as a crew, but repeating the range doesn't necessarily

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## Memorial ceremonies help ease grief

Fort Riley, governor honor five dead Soldiers

By Robyn Haynes  
K-State Intern

Hundreds of mourners filed into Morris Hill Chapel April 7 to honor the memory of five fallen Fort Riley Soldiers.

Chap. (Maj.) Nicholas Catrow described the five as brave, honorable and courageous men who gave their lives freeing an oppressed society.

The altar was adorned with

portraits of the honored servicemen. Dog tags, boots, helmets and rifles were placed near their pictures as a tribute to their military service.

First Lt. Doyle M. Hufstедler, Spc. Sean R. Mitchell, Spc. Michael G. Karr Jr., Pfc. Cleston C. Raney and Pvt. Brandon L. Davis were killed on March 31, in Habbaniyah, Iraq, a day considered to be Fort Riley's most tragic day since the war began and a day that came one year after the first

reported casualty from Fort Riley.

"They have given their last full measure of devotion to this great country," said Capt. Terrance Alvarez. "They have taken their place among those gallant ranks of the fallen battalion Soldiers," he added, referring to the five engineers who died in January.

Alvarez took a few moments to reflect on the lives of the men of the 1st Engineer Battalion. He

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## Comrades recall heroes

By Jamie Bender  
1st BCT

Al Habbaniyah, Iraq -- Soldiers of 1st Brigade Combat Team gathered March 31, at Camp Manhattan to honor the lives and deaths of five Soldiers from Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion, killed in action supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Honored were 1st Lt. Doyle Hufstедler, Sgt. Sean Mitchell, Spc. Michael Karr, Pfc. Cleston Raney and Pfc. Brandon Davis. They died when an improvised explosive device detonated under their armored personnel carrier.

The too familiar sound of bagpipes playing "Amazing Grace" filled the gymnasium where the ceremony was held. Silent tears flowed from eyes red and swollen with grief.

Following the invocation by Chap. (Maj.) Nathan Zimmerman, Lt. Col. Dave Brinkley, 1st Eng. Bn. commander, spoke to

the gathered Soldiers about the feelings they may experience.

"As is often the case in times like these, our emotions run the gamut through anger, despair, hate and fear," Brinkley said. "We ask ourselves, 'Why them?' and 'Will I be next?' We may even ask ourselves, 'Why should we continue to fight?'"

Brinkley answered some of those questions for the Soldiers and encouraged them to use their emotions to continue the mission.

"We fight here to rid the world of the scourge of terrorism; that is true," he said. "But we really fight for those men on our left and our right. Know that each of these men fell fighting for what they believed in, for each of you standing here today. Each would have gladly sacrificed themselves for any of you. Fear not and do not despair. These men did not die in vain. Turn your

See Iraq, Page 3



Doyle Hufstедler



Sean Mitchell



Michael Karr



Cleston Raney



Brandon Davis





## Post news in brief

### Colyer Manor intersections close for repair

Gracon Construction is scheduled to begin repair work April 19 on the drainage ditch along McCormick Road. The contractor will begin with closing the road at the intersection of McCormick and Craig. Upon completion of work there, the contractor will move to McCormick and King Avenue, then to McCormick and Booth.

Traffic on McCormick will continue, but vehicles will not be able to enter Colyer Manor using Craig, King or Booth while work is being done at those intersections. The contractor estimates intersections will be closed about two weeks each while culverts and trenches are repaired.

Construction fencing will be placed around the area and trenches will be covered at night. Parents are responsible for keeping children away from all construction areas.

### Irwin hospital faces survey

The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations will conduct an accreditation survey of Irwin Army Community Hospital May 12-14 to evaluate the organization's compliance with nationally established standards. The survey results will be used to determine whether, and the condition under which, accreditation should be awarded the organization.

Joint Commission standards deal with organization quality and safety of care issues and the safety of the environment in which care is provided. Anyone believing that he or she has pertinent and valid information about such matters may request a public information interview with the Joint Commission's field representatives at the time of the survey. Information presented at the interview and will be carefully evaluated for relevance to the accreditation process.

Requests for a public information interview must be made in writing and should be sent to the Joint Commission no later than five working days before the survey begins. The request must also indicate the nature of the information to be provided at the interview.

Such requests should be addressed to Division of Accreditation Operations, Office of Quality Monitoring, Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, One Renaissance Blvd., Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181; faxed to (630) 792-5636; or e-mailed to [complaint@jcaho.org](mailto:complaint@jcaho.org).

The Joint Commission's Office of Quality Monitoring will acknowledge in writing or by telephone requests received 10 days before the survey begins. An account representative will contact the individual requesting the public information interview prior to the survey, indicating the location, date, and time of the interview and the name of the surveyor who will conduct the interview.

### Remembrance observance set

The division's Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor Fort Riley's observance for Days of Remembrance with a program from 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. April 28 at Barlow Theater.

The theme for this year's observance is "For Justice and Humanity."

Everyone is invited to join the Equal Opportunity Office staff in commemorating the six million Jews as well as millions of others killed by the Nazi regime.

The program is free and open to all soldiers, their families, civilian employees, and the surrounding communities.

For more information, contact a Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor or the Division EO Office at 239-8433.

# LandWarNet feeds needed data

## Army leaders: Steady diet of information vital to success on battlefields

*Editor's note: This is one in a series of articles relating to the 17 Army focus areas.*

By Lorie Jewell

Army News Service

WASHINGTON - Army leaders say they believe a steady diet of information is just as vital to being successful on the battlefield as providing Soldiers the best equipment and training.

"Information is power," said Brig. Gen. Jan Hicks, commanding general of the U.S. Army Signal Corps and Fort Gordon, Ga.

"We want to know things about the battlefield and we want to know things about our enemy on the battlefield. At the same time, we don't want the enemy to know what we know, or to know things

about us," Hicks said.

Connecting Soldiers to information they need, whenever they need it and wherever they are, is the job of the Network, recently renamed LandWarNet. It's one of 17 focus areas the Army is emphasizing to win the Global War on Terrorism.

Hicks heads the task force assigned to make recommendations on how best to develop and improve LandWarNet so that it delivers better battle command capabilities to current, future, and joint forces.

The joint aspect is of particular interest, Hicks said.

"We're not going to war as an Army. We're going to war with our sailor and airmen friends," Hicks said.

"We must be able to communicate with them without an extra

### Army Focus Areas

The Army's 17 immediate areas of focus include: The Soldier; The Bench; Combat Training Centers/Battle Command Training Program; Leader Development and Education; Army Aviation; Current to Future Force; The Network; Modularity; Active Component/Reserve Component Balance; Force Stabilization; Actionable Intelligence; Installations as Flagships; Authorities, Responsibilities, and Accountability; Resource Processes; Strategic Communications; Joint Expeditionary Army with a Campaign-quality Capability; and Logistics.

step. We need a system that allows one call," he pointed out.

Ultimately, the task force wants to see a LandWarNet that gives combatant commanders the same capabilities for accessing information in any location, whether that's at a desktop computer in their office, in an aircraft, on a

vessel at sea, in a vehicle on route to battle or in a post-battle camp, Hicks said.

"We're working on different ways to get there," she said.

One of those ways is through the Global Information Grid. Hicks describes it as scaffolding built up around the globe.

"Communication lines go all over, pulsing through the GIG," she said. "It services the defense information switch network which is provided by the Defense Information Services Agency."

Forces can reach into the DISN with satellites and pull information services down to wherever they are in the world, she said. A combination of military and commercial technology powers LandWarNet, with leaders committed to pursuing programs that will enhance it even more.

Leaders acknowledge that getting the network to the level the task force envisions is an expensive endeavor. Just how much (it will cost) is still being determined.

"We're talking about an almost clean sweep of the kind of equipment we have now," Hicks said.

## Mounted horse unit takes on original name

By Cassidy Hill

Staff writer

Fort Riley citizens may notice a slight change around the horse stables. The Fort Riley Honor Guard sign now reads: Commanding General's Mounted Color Guard. Capt. Joel Graham, commander of the horse unit, said changing the name is a positive move.

"We are going back to our roots and our original name," Graham said. "The name change more defines what we are in essence of a mounted color guard versus an honor guard."

For three years, the CGMCG was called the Fort Riley Honor Guard. Graham said many people thought his honor guard unit did funeral details. He said he would get several phone calls a day to do funeral details. Graham said his unit did not oversee funeral

details but participates in re-enactments, parades and ceremonies.

Graham said the name change also recognizes the people who initially founded the unit. He said the CGMCG was established in 1992 by a group of military and civilian members of a local riding club. Their mounted color guard became so popular that Fort Riley's commanding general wanted the unit to be a part of Fort Riley. In 1994, the unit was officially designated as a ceremonial unit on post.

Even though the unit's name has already changed, the official ceremony and guidon change will take place at 10:30 a.m. on May 12 in front of building 500. The ceremony will be part of the Kansas sesquicentennial celebration in which the unit is participating with a cavalry ride from Fort Leavenworth to Fort Riley.

## Essay continued from page 1

gave toys and other things the family would send to him to children in Iraq.

"He also helped build a hospital there," Tozier said proudly.

Tozier went on to say she was inspired in part by her father's weekly letters and e-mails.

"I sent pictures frequently so they could see what I was doing and how I was doing physically," said the Fort Riley soldier, who provided communications support for his battery and was a gunner most of the time he went on patrols.

"It was a dangerous job," he said. "Still is."

After Tozier had won the contest, her mother, Denise Tozier, said things happened rather quickly. The Toziers were invited to make an appearance on "The Today Show," where the family was to be reunited.

"It all happened within a couple of days," Denise said. "At first, it was hard to believe. It was kind of a shock. Then, it was like a dream."

Scott had already arrived on March 22, but the reunion, which was a surprise for Tozier, didn't take place for another two days.

"I didn't know what to do," said Tozier, after learning her dad wouldn't be there to join her.

"I had to make it seem like I

had another mission," said Scott, code-naming the highly anticipated reunion "Operation Bubblegum."

NBC flew Tozier and her mother to New York City and gave them two nights' stay in a local hotel. But according to Denise, "everyone was so overwhelmed, they gave us a couple more nights."

The Toziers took advantage of the extra days to tour New York City.

Denise and Scott said they are very proud of their daughter.

"I am very impressed, very proud of her," Denise said. "It was her feelings. She was pouring herself out. That she could make others see those feelings was very impressive."

Tozier and another Geary County Unified School District student, Danielle Ziegler, a fourth-grader at Sheridan Elementary School, were recognized by the school district April 5. Tozier will also be presented with a framed certificate at a school-wide assembly scheduled for 1:30 p.m. April 14.

Since all the excitement, the Toziers have been enjoying some "family time" and have planned a three-week trip to Florida to visit Tozier's brothers, Josh Mitchell, 22, and Jake Mitchell, 21.

### Why I'm Proud of My Family Member Serving in the U.S. Armed Forces

By Amber Tozier

My dad is in the U.S. Army. He has been in the military a long time. My dad is very proud of his country and told me that the best way he could show how much he loves the United States is to serve in the military and protect it.

My dad loves to help people in this country. I can remember one time when there was a hurricane in Florida and he had to go and help people that had lost their homes. He helped them clean up their houses and got them water and food to eat. He took people to the hospital that needed help.

My dad is now in Iraq. He is trying to help those people to be free like us. He has helped rebuild hospitals and make it safe for kids like us to go to school. He told me that the kids over there don't have a lot of things and gave them candy and toys that we sent over to him.

By making other countries safe my dad is making our country safe. He is very brave and knows his job very well. My dad loves my mom and I very much. He wants to protect us, and make this country a better place for us. This is why I am very proud of my dad.

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RSD/April 2004





## Post news in brief

### Goggles could aid training

The Fort Riley Safety office has five training kits using fatal vision goggles that demonstrate the concept of impairment and the dangers of impaired driving. Three kits use the bronze- and silver-labeled goggles. The bronze goggle simulates a moderate level of impairment, an estimated blood alcohol content of .07 to more than .10. The silver goggle simulates a high level of impairment, an estimated BAC of 17 to more than 20.

It also has two kits with the white-, bronze- and silver-labeled goggles. The white-label goggle simulates a low level of impairment with an estimated BAC of less than .06. Units can sign for the kits to conduct training by contacting Richard Hearnson, 3rd BCT safety specialist, at 239-8469; Eric Washington, 1st BCT safety specialist, at 239-8469; Tom Anderson of Safety Office Base Operations, 239-2245; and Don Browning of 24th Infantry Division Tactical Safety at 239-2073.

The Fatal Vision Training packet comes with an instructor guide, reproducible elementary, adolescent and adult handouts, facilitator guide and reproducible business curriculum.

### Unit mailroom classes offered

Fort Riley Postal Operations staff will teach an introductory class in unit mailroom operations from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on April 14 and 28 in building 319.

Pre-enrollment is required. To enroll, call 239-5411.

Each commander who has a unit mailroom must appoint a unit postal officer and alternate unit postal officer. Each mailroom also must have a primary unit mail clerk and at least two alternates.

Prospective mail clerks are required to attend a class and bring with them a copy of their memorandum of on-the-job training (20 days OJT period is required). Unit postal officers not involved in mail handling duties only need to attend the class; they do not have to test. Unit postal officers involved in mail handling duties must have a minimum of 20 days OJT and will have to take the unit mail clerk test.

### Evening college classes offered

Fort Riley University plans to offer evening college courses through four on-post colleges and one off-post college campus. Class dates run from April 12 through July 28.

A variety of degree programs are available and students may earn certificates of completion or associate, bachelor's or master's degrees.

Counselors in buildings 217, 7604 and 7656 are available from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays to help prospective students with course selection, enrollment and applications for financial aid.

Check for course offerings on the Internet at [www.riley.army.mil/Services/Education/StudentServices.asp](http://www.riley.army.mil/Services/Education/StudentServices.asp).

### Army seeks warrant officers

The U.S. Army is looking for highly motivated Soldiers, Marines, Sailors and Airmen to fill its warrant officer ranks. Positions are open in all 45 specialties for those who qualify.

Applicants with fewer than 12 years active federal service are encouraged to apply.

For more information and all forms and documents required to apply, visit [www.usarec.army.mil/warrant](http://www.usarec.army.mil/warrant) on the Internet or call (502) 626-0484/0458/0488/0478/1271/1860.



**A memorial was held in Camp Manhattan to honor five Soldiers of Company B, 1st Engineer Battalion who were killed in action March 31.**

Post/Bender

## Iraq

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anger into focus to bring their killers to justice while we continue to fight to bring peace to this troubled land. Remember these brave men and their sacrifice, their love of country, and their love of you, their comrades in arms. The enemy may take their lives, but not our dedication, our bravery or our fortitude."

Capt. Jason Bavinka, company commander, shared his memories of each Soldier.

"He loved his job; he loved his Soldiers, his men," he said of Hufstetler. "There is nothing he would not have done for any one of his Soldiers. The only thing he loved more than the Army was his wife, Leslie...."

"An outstanding Soldier, Sean was the guy you could always count on no matter the mission or task. He was always at the forefront making sure things got done. He lived by the division motto, 'No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, duty first,' Bavinka said about Mitchell.

"Spec. Karr was the dog pound medic, proudly earning the name 'Doc,' something that is not given, but earned," Bavinka said. "On any given mission I swear Michael was a sapper, just dressed as a medic. He was the one that

was carrying the shovel digging up the cache."

"Pfc. Davis was never without a smile. No matter what the situation he was always quick with a joke, quick with a smile or something that would make you smile...."

"Cleston [Raney] was the one behind the scenes. He was the guy that got things done, but you didn't know it. It took me almost a month and half in command just to figure out who he was. Cleston went about his business and never sought praise or even acknowledgement. We all noticed."

Bavinka finished by referring to the song "American Soldier" by Toby Keith, asking Soldiers to continue their mission with pride.

"I know if these five Soldiers were here today, they would point out the line in Toby Keith's song: 'I am true down to the core and I will always do my duty no matter what the price,'" he said.

"Let us not dwell on what happened. That is not what any of these guys would have wanted. Each and every one of these dog pound members wants us to drive on. In true bull dog fashion we will continue our mission with our head held up high," Bavinka promised the Soldiers.

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STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

# Post MPs crack down on use of seat belts

## Special to the Post

The Fort Riley Provost Marshal's Office is partnering with more than 12,000 other law enforcement agencies in a nationwide crackdown against seat belt violators.

During the national "Click-it or Ticket" mobilization, military police officers at Fort Riley will use checkpoints to enforce the seat belt law.

Drivers who fail to buckle

up or fail to buckle their child passengers will be ticketed.

Neighboring civilian law enforcement agencies also will be running seat belt checkpoints.

The leading cause of death for the U.S. Military is traffic accidents in privately owned vehicles.

Deaths among military personnel occurring in private motor vehicle accidents are up 35 percent from 2001.

In fiscal year 2002, 321 military personnel of all services lost their lives in traffic accidents.

Nearly half of those young service members who failed to wear seat belts could have survived if they had buckled up, officials said.

Military personnel, because of their age and gender, typically epitomize the low seat belt user: males ranging in age from 18 to 34.

## Fort Riley

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gazed into the faces of grieving friends and family to give a voice to those Soldiers loved and lost.

Hufstetler is remembered by his Soldiers for his three greatest loves: his friends and family, his Soldiers and his Aggies.

"Doyle was a Soldier, statesman and a knightly gentleman who epitomized honesty, determination and integrity," Alvarez said.

"He was a man of strength in his convictions, truly a fine example for young officers and Soldiers to emulate."

Alvarez recalled Mitchell as a dependable gentle giant.

"Spec. Mitchell could always be counted on when the going got rough," Alvarez said.

"Doc" Karr, the platoon's medic, is remembered by his Soldiers as an intelligent young man who took his medical responsibility very seriously.

"He took pride in his abilities as a medic and trained hard to ensure his skills would be up to the task when the time came," Alvarez said.

Raney was killed in action just two months shy of his 21st birthday.

"Pfc. Raney joined the Army after Sept. 11, 2001," Alvarez said. "He knew the risks and knew he would find himself in harm's way. He was a humble and professional Soldier."

Davis joined the Army in February 2003, just before the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"He was an outgoing and confident young man," Alvarez said. "He was never seen without a smile on his face and was known to joke with peers to make the difficult days in Iraq slightly more bearable."

Among those attending to honor the memories of the Soldiers was Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

"As a community, we need to show support for the troops and pray for the families of those who have been lost and for the safe return of those who are still fighting," Sebelius said.

She spoke with the Soldiers' family members and expressed her condolences and appreciation for their sacrifice and service to the country.

Maj. Jeffery Broadwater depicted the five Soldiers as part of a team that touched more lives than they will ever know.

"If you want happiness for a day, go fishing," Broadwater said. "If you want happiness for a year, inherit a fortune. If you want happiness for a lifetime, help somebody."

As the community came together to pay final respects to the fallen Soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division, Broadwater

assured the somber audience that the five pictures before them epitomized the division motto:

"No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great, duty first!"

"They made us better," Broadwater said, "not just better Soldiers because the mission was accomplished, but because they taught and showed us what selfless service truly is and the unbearable price some pay so others may live free."

The Soldiers are recipients of the Meritorious Service Medal and the Purple Heart. Their unit also has requested that each Soldier receive the Bronze Star for their service in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

GEICO- ARMED FORCES COMM  
3 x 10"  
Black Only  
#447763/We've Stood





Post/Skidmore

Sgt. 1st Class Tyron Fowler meets his daughter, 7-month-old Zoe, in person for the first time April 2, as his wife, Sharon looks on.

## Tears

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and like all of the Soldiers returning from Iraq, he had been on his guard every day of the year spent there.

When Hughes and the more than 600 Soldiers of the 1st Bn., 13th Armor, and 300th Military Police Company finally reunited with their families April 2, Hughes cried. His eyes didn't just tear up. His wasn't just the reserved snifle expected of such a hardened warrior. Hughes unleashed all the emotions he'd kept bottled up for so long. All those emotions spewed out uncontrollably when he felt the embrace by his mother and his fiancée, Regina Reeves.

"I'm glad to be home," Hughes said, wiping tears from his eyes only to have more spill out. "You keep everything bottled up for so long. I can't help it. It just keeps coming out."

Hughes had another reason for celebrating that morning. He met his son, Braeden, for the first time. Born after he deployed, Hughes just knelt beside the stroller and gazed at the child.

Hughes and his family weren't unique.

Several Tri Delta Kansas State University sorority mem-

bers have been writing and e-mailing single Fort Riley Soldiers who don't have family living nearby to support them.

"I was crying as much as the wives," said Celeste Farley. "One guy said this was one of the greatest things to happen to him."

The sorority surrounded Pfc. Michael Eberly, 21, with attention. His family in Pennsylvania was unable to be at the welcome ceremony April 2.

"I could do worse," he said, smiling. "I heard my name called and was like, 'What's going on?' It was nice having someone show up."

Sgt. 1st Class Tyron Fowler met his daughter, 7-month-old Zoe, in person for the first time April 2.

Not sure what to think, the baby stared at her dad as he stared back with a toothy grin.

Zoe's mother, Sharon, looked on with tears as her husband and daughter experienced their first bonding.

When the 541st Maintenance Battalion and the 977th Military Police Company returned the morning of April 5, Staff Sgt. Eric Healey wept as did his wife, Elizabeth, his daughters, Grace, Lexi and

Lenae, his mother, Ann Lopicol, and sister, Shannon.

When his family initially hugged him, there wasn't enough room around his neck for all of them to get their arms around, but they all tried. "This is a wonderful moment in our lives," Lopicol said. "My son is home, he's safe and with his family. ... I can't help crying."

Tears flowed from many through the weekend and into Monday. Some, like Julie Quinn, cried while waiting for her loved ones. Married three weeks before her husband, Sgt. Timothy Quinn of 1st Bn., 13th Armor, deployed, she's been waiting for a year to go on a honeymoon.

"We got married March 11," Quinn said, with tears flowing down her cheeks. "There wasn't time for a honeymoon then, but we leave for Jamaica April 16."

The Quinns were so busy saying 'hello,' they didn't notice the crowd had thinned to just a few, and they were nearly the last to leave the duffel bag claim area outside the hangar.

"We have to go," said Quinn's bride. "It's time to get on with our life."

Post/Skidmore

Master Sgt. Tim Schaefer, 541st Maintenance Battalion, makes his way back to his vehicle with his son, Levi, wife Kristy, daughter, Stephani and mother and father-in-law, Hank and Sue Macklin of Junction City.



DPCA/DCA/MWR  
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# Post to honor volunteers

## Community donates 136,300 hours of help

By Mike Heronemus

Editor

Fort Riley plans to thank its legion of volunteers at 7 p.m. April 12, during a special ceremony at Barlow Theater on Custer Hill. Among the 48 people honored will be a Post Volunteer of the Year and, for the first time, a Youth Volunteer of the Year.

Thirty-seven volunteers were nominated for Post Volunteer of the Year. Four volunteers were nominated for Youth Volunteer of the Year. The names of the two top volunteers will not be made public until the ceremony.

The post also plans to present four "Helping Hands" awards for the first time this year. Those awards will go to Roy and Anita Watson, Janie Sajo and Gail Trygg.

The Watsons coordinated Red Cross volunteer staffing of the canteens set up at every deployment and redeployment ceremony at Fort Riley.

Sajo and Trygg coordinated canteen volunteers from the Lady Troopers organization in Junction City.

This year's post and youth vol-

## Who benefited?

Units - 62,182 hours  
Organizations - 55,103 hours  
Chapel activities - 19,044 hours

unteers of the year were selected based on several factors, not just the number of hours they volunteered, said Betsy Young, community activities coordinator at the Soldier and Family Support Center. The volunteer work they did, where they volunteered to work and the impact their service had on others also were factors, she said.

A volunteer panel comprised of one officer retiree, one enlisted retiree, one civilian, one enlisted spouse and one officer's spouse selected the top volunteers.

Young saw volunteer work increase at Fort Riley each of the past three years. Part of the growth can be attributed to the increased number and length of deployments for Soldiers, she said.

More than 2,160 volunteers

contributed more than 136,300 hours to Fort Riley during 2003, Young reported. That represented an increase of more than 41,000 volunteer hours compared to the year before, she said.

Family Resource Group volunteers contributed many of the increased hours, Young said, because of the need for FRG services during deployments. "It's been a time that we've needed to get together and take care of each other," she said.

The FRGs expanded their family contacts to Soldiers' families living far from the Fort Riley area, Young said. "They even created Web pages," she said.

With spouses deployed, the volunteers performed the extra work with children in tow, while paying for childcare or by helping each other out with babysitting, Young said. "They didn't have the spouse at home to take care of the children while they volunteered," she said.

Volunteers provided an estimated \$2.25 million in labor to Fort Riley, Young said. She based that figure on President George W. Bush's assessment that an hour of volunteer labor is worth \$16.54, on average.

## Top guns

continued from page 1

improve a crew's proficiency, Peacock said. The targets change from one run to another, so it doesn't do any good to try to memorize where they are and when they pop up, he said.

"We did lousy on Table 7," Peacock said. Table 7 is a practice run for Table 8. The crew fires all its weapons like they do on Table 8, but the targets come up quicker and times to acquire and fire on them are shorter, he said.

Peacock said sharp eyes helped the Headquarters 66 crew perform so well on Table 8. "Everyone is good at spotting targets and telling where they are," Peacock said.

"We try to find the target fast

because we don't know how long the (enemy) will take to find us," Peacock said. Survival on the battlefield can be a matter of who sees whom first, he said.

Blanks is the best driver in the battalion, Peacock swears. "I

guess that comes from spending a lot of time in the hole," Blanks said about the two years he's been in the driver's seat.

Alexander adds speed to the tank's crew performance, Peacock said. "He can load a SABO round in about 2.5 seconds. The Army standard is about seven seconds," Peacock said.

The crew of Bravo 13 from Company B, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, shot the second-highest score in the battalion — 929 of a possible 1,000 points. Bravo 13's crew consists of tank commander Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith, Sgt. Robert Gamez, Pfc. Jason Aylamartinez and Pfc. Jacob Braden.

Company A's Alpha 34 crew of tank commander Sgt. 1st Class Jason Skinner, Sgt. Bruce Horrell, Spc. Adam Wallin and Pfc. Jessie Mowry shot the third best score in 2nd Bn., 34th Armor, with 927 of a possible 1,000 points.

The battalion's Company B tank crews scored best on average of all companies — 831 of 1,000 possible — in the battalion to earn the title of best company in the battalion.

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# More 'part-time' Soldiers serve full-time

Fort Riley's mobilization role emphasizes importance of Army reserve component skills

By Sam Robinson  
Staff writer

During the past two years thousands of National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve Soldiers have mobilized and deployed through Fort Riley. Additionally many reserve component Soldiers have stayed on post to help with daily operations and training.

"Our reserve component Soldiers have been doing a critical job here at Fort Riley," said Col. Jay Simpson, garrison commander. "We are truly an Army of One; we are a team."

Soldiers of the 6025th Garrison Support Unit came to Fort Riley in January 2003. The unit coordinates the mobilization, training and redeployments of reserve Soldiers who come through Fort Riley.

Additionally reserve Soldiers have been called upon to oversee and supervise lane training. Mobilized Soldiers go through the lane training to make sure they are properly trained in the skills they will need when deployed. The

reserve Soldiers working as trainers with the 3rd Brigade, 75th Division (Training Support), have prepared hundreds of units for deployment.

"The 6025th, TSB and other units have been critical to the success of mobilizing and training over 9,000 Soldiers here," Simpson said.

The duration of mobilizations has become considerably longer than in the past. Many of the reserve component Soldiers here find keeping busy to be the best way to keep from missing home.

"Reserve component Soldiers are vital to national defense, we all know that," Col. Robert Lowery, 6025th GSU commander, said. "The role has shifted from support roles strictly in the rear to being in combat zones."

Changing roles and longer hours have led to greater stress levels for reserve component Soldiers and their families.

"I know it has been difficult for reserve component Soldiers to be gone from home for so long, but we need them," Simpson said.

## Force strength

Active Army Personnel — 494,000  
Army National Guard Personnel — 351,000  
Army Reserve Personnel — 212,000

Total number mobilized as of March 24, 2004 — 152,173

"We need them here and throughout the Army."

Simpson said reserve component families have access to the Fort Riley Family Readiness Center and all that is there. Support systems for families have been improved for reserve families during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"It is hard when you sign up for a part-time job and then find out you are going to be gone for a year or longer," Simpson said. "Active duty families are used to it. It is a way of life."

"Knowing what reserve Soldiers have left behind, what they have to juggle to make this happen, I can't help but admire all of them," Simpson said. "I thank them all for being so committed to

serving their nation."

Lowery pointed out that one factor determining whether a Soldier makes a smooth transition from civilian to military life is the way the Soldier leaves his or her civilian job.

"(Some) of the unsung heroes of this time are the employers who have supported our Army Reserve Soldiers and National Guard members," Simpson said. "Some of these businesses have been hit hard with mobilizations but they still support the Soldier."

Lowery and Simpson stress the importance of communication between Soldiers and their civilian employers.

Simpson hopes that business will continue to support the Sol-

diers and work with them as they return to work.

"While a business may abide by the letter of the law, ideally they will embrace the spirit of the law," Lowery said.

"For that to happen it is vital that the Soldier communicates with the employer. They need to hear news just like the family members do," he said.

Despite added stress at home and in the work place for reserve Soldiers, Lowery feels that the Army will always be able to find a core group of people willing to volunteer for service.

He admits they have a lot to consider when joining the National Guard or reserves but believes many will continue to answer the call.

"Hopefully we as a country won't lose our citizen Soldiers because of negative effects in their civilian jobs or on their families due to longer mobilizations," Simpson said. "We need these top-quality, caring people to enlist and continue to serve as a part of the Army of One."



First in a four-part series

About the series:

*As the Army's mission evolves, the manner in which National Guard and Reserve Soldiers are used is changing. More mobilizations, longer deployments and expanding roles for reserve component Soldiers have created new challenges for America's citizen Soldiers.*

*Balancing a full-time, long-term career with the duty of military service can test the relationship between a Soldier and his or her employer.*

*Many businesses across the nation have stepped up to the call of the nation and supported their reserve component employees. Some, despite the law, have questioned the extended absences and pressured the employee not to serve.*

*As Soldiers begin to return from Iraq and other duty stations, they are faced with the decision of whether or not to enlist. With more than 100,000 reserve component Soldiers serving on active duty, reserve strength will translate into the overall strength of America's forces.*

*This series looks at the law that protects reserve component Soldiers in the civilian workplace and tells the stories of some Reserve Soldiers at Fort Riley.*

By Sam Robinson  
Staff writer

The Army's transformation into an all-volunteer force placed more reliance on reserve component Soldiers. According to many of these Soldiers, the transition between civilian and military life is not always easy.

In October 1994 Congress provided clear protection in regard to private employment rights for all members of the uniformed services when it passed the Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act.

"Really USERRA has two purposes," said Lt. Col. Rob Robinson, chief of legal assistance at Fort Riley. "It helps protect Soldiers from being discriminated against by employers, and it helps the Army to retain reserve component Soldiers."

According to the Employer Support for the Guard and Reserve Web site, the Department of Labor is the enforcement authority and processor of all formal complaints of violations of the law. The Web site states that 95 percent of the complaints filed against employers by members of the military are resolved through an informal process.

Many problems result from poor communication between employers and their employees or from a lack of familiarization with the rights and responsibilities of each as defined by law.

"There needs to be a partnership between the Soldier and the employer," Robinson said. "Soldiers should share all the information they can to keep the employer in the loop."

The 1984 act has seven major sections covering various employment issues. The act seeks to ensure that members of the uniformed services are entitled to return to their civilian employment upon completing their service, according to ESGR Web site.

They should be reinstated with the seniority, status and rate of pay they would have obtained had they remained continuously employed by their civilian employer. The law also protects individuals from discrimination in hiring, promotion and retention on the basis of present and future membership in the armed services.

USERRA applies to all employers in the United States, regardless of the size of the business. It protects part-time positions, unless the employment is for a brief, non-recurring period and is not expected to last indefinitely or for a significant period. USERRA does not protect independent contractors and others considered to be self-employed.

Under USERRA a Soldier or Army officer from his or her command group must give an employer advance notice of upcoming military service of any type. Otherwise, the reserve Soldier will not be eligible for re-employment protection after the period of military service.

"I recommend all notices be

given in writing to employers," Robinson said. "It is nice to tell an employer when possible, but putting an issue in writing really protects your interests."

USERRA sets a five-year cumulative limit on the amount of military leave a Soldier can perform and retain re-employment rights with a given employer. If the Soldier gets a new employer, he or she gets a new five-year limit. A few exceptions are made to this rule for unusual situations. Weekend drills, annual training and recalls due to a war or national emergency are not counted in the five-year cumulative total.

When applying for re-employment, Soldiers should identify themselves, state that they had left employment to perform military service, that the service has been completed and that they want to be reinstated.

"Just like when a Soldier

leaves the civilian job, they need to make contact with the employer as soon as they know they could be returning," Robinson said.

"You should give as much notice as possible that you want your job back and an approximate time frame when you can return."

Failure to return to work within the appropriate time frame or to submit a request for re-employment can make a Soldier subject to the employer's rules concerning unauthorized absence from work.

Employees returning from military service must be re-employed in the job that they would have attained had they not been absent for military service. This should ensure that the Soldier returns to work with the appropriate seniority, status, pay and other benefits, such as health insurance.

Returning employees also are entitled to training or retraining

by the employer if that is necessary to qualify for the re-employment. If the Soldier was disabled while on military duty or a disability is aggravated by military service, the employer must make reasonable efforts to accommodate the disability.

Soldiers wishing to re-enter the civilian workforce should be prepared to provide employers with proper documentation, Robinson advised.

USERRA also protects all pension plans for the length of service.

Employers cannot require Soldiers to use vacation time while they are on active duty. Additional vacation time is not accrued

while the Soldier is mobilized.

If a Reserve component member experiences employment problems because of military obligations, he or she should first notify the unit commander. Often disputes between the two parties can be resolved promptly in an informal process.

If problems are not resolved, Soldiers can seek help from the Veterans' Employment and Training Service in the U.S. Department of Labor.

The burden of proof in a reasonable situation falls on the employer, who must prove they would have acted the same course of action with an employee not involved in military service.

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# Commentary

Page 6

Fort Riley Post

Friday, April 9, 2004

## First-Hand Account

### Being a Lioness brings a great feeling

By Kyla Rasmussen  
1st Engineer Battalion

"I'll go," I volunteered as a shiver of nervous excitement attacked my spine. I have just volunteered for a Lioness mission at the only local traffic control point. During this type of mission, females are used to interact with and search Iraqi females for weapons or other contraband.

My supply clerk, Pfc. Rebecca Nava, also volunteered for the mission.

As we prepare to go outside the wire, we follow our commander's guidance of always having our rucksacks packed with two days of supplies in case we get caught outside the wire.

"Haven't you seen the movie 'Black Hawk Down'?" questions Capt. Katherine Pendry when we prepare to roll on any mission.

I ask my veteran Lioness teams for words of advice. They tell me not to bring the ruck, but a smaller flight bag with all the essentials packed. "They'll just laugh at you with that big ruck. It'll get in the way," Spc. Brandi Burns and Spc. Cynthia Espinoza advise. "Don't forget to wear clean underwear!" Mom's advice still rings true.

Nava and I take our smaller flight bags with cold weather gear, flashlights, additional clothing, and MREs (Meals Ready to Eat). We make our way to Company A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, to join the male Soldiers of "Destroyer" on their routine

mission.

The Soldiers welcome us and we give our names to the officer in charge of the mission. My name is one of those long names no one knows how to pronounce, so I tell them to call me by my position - XO (of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Engineer Battalion). Their interpreter picks up on my title and dances around chanting "XO! XO! XO! XO!"

We receive an excellent mission brief and I feel confident that we will be able to execute the given mission. I know that I will be searching the females and small children while the traffic is stopped and the Destroyer Soldiers search the vehicles and the

Our patrol mounts the vehicles and we head out the gate, outside of the wire. Mine is the last vehicle in the convoy and as soon as we pass through the gate, we get a change to our mission. One of the observation posts has spotted two gunmen firing on their position and has them in sight in a field close to our location.

We speed towards the open field and attempt to find the gunmen. An initial search of the field yields nothing. We pull out spotlights and search in the low spots near the river, still nothing. The observation post speculates that the gunmen have run to hide in a nearby power plant.

"Last two vehicles, go and

See Lioness, Page 7

Grunt By Wayne Uhden



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## Religion and Violence

# Panelists of three faiths wrestles with religious violence



By Chap. Dean Bonura  
1st Armored Division

Baghdad, Iraq - Drawing upon their common belief in God, an informal panel recently discussed whether it is possible for Jews, Christians and Muslims to promote reconciliation in a war weary land where religion is oftentimes blamed for the violence.

Bruce Feiler, author of "Walking the Bible," sat with Imam Mohammed Al-Ubaidy, spiritual leader for the 14 Ramadan Mosque, Baghdad, and myself at Firebase Melody in eastern Baghdad to pose this question and discuss a few others.

Everyone attending the meeting was very hopeful about the possibilities for peace and stabilization in this region.

This discussion only reinforced what I have already discovered in every conversation I have ever had with religious persons in Baghdad: Everyone wants to see an end to senseless violence.

It seems reasonable for people who share a common belief in the same God to figure a way to discourage violence by those who would try to perpetuate their former power base in the name of God, Feiler said.

If Islam is truly about peace, then Muslim leaders should unite and collectively disavow the violence that others are doing in the name of their religion, he said.

I suggested to the group that perhaps we are approaching the issue in the wrong way.

When we consider the prophets and the various sacred texts of the three major religions in the world, we recognize there is less agreement about doctrinal things.

For example, we may believe in the same God, but we differ about Jesus. But, all three religions' mutual tie to the ancient patriarch, Abraham, might provide a starting point.

Feiler, referring to his book "Abraham: A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths," said Abraham may be a flawed vessel, but he's

the best vessel for reconciliation we have. The answer is found in what Abraham offers: a rare vision of hope that, despite setbacks, we may be able to use to redefine what we think about our neighbors, our future and ourselves."

The Imam warned to this idea, but the panel concluded all these things take time.

Besides talking about violence and religion, the panel posed complex religion questions to one another.

"Not everyone is ready to set aside their personal concerns for the good of the many," the Imam said.

"Someone greater than Al-Sistani (the Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Husseini al-Sistani and Iraq's most influential Shiite Muslim cleric) will have to intervene in order to bring about real progress concerning (Iraq's) self-government."

"Why don't the Christian people follow the orders of the God so that we might enjoy more

peace?" he asked.

"Unfortunately, not every Christian follows the commands of God; and besides, there are many Americans who follow another religion or no religion at all," I responded.

As for the violence, no religious person is immune.

"Imagine, if you will, an empty room," Feiler suggested. "You are told to move to one side of the room if you have violence in your religion. And, if you have no violence in your religion, move to the other side. One side of the room is empty. We're all guilty."

The discussion ended with Jew, Christian and Muslim believers clasping hands in a sign of solidarity.

Although the discussion did not come up with solutions to the problems facing Iraq, the consensus reached by the panel was this: One God, different faiths, but a common commitment to peaceful coexistence, mutual support, understanding and engagement - dialog without antagonism.

## First-Hand Account

# Mobilization turns strangers to comrades

By Jeremy A. Clawson  
105th MPAD

Crouching behind the corner of an abandoned building, I pulled down hard on Katie Couric's sweatshirt. Shots rang out overhead and smoke filled the air. I couldn't see our other vehicles.

"Stay close," I yelled.

I knew the others had already cleared an entryway in a building just 50 feet ahead.

Ms. Couric and I were trapped between our vehicles and a clearing in the village center. I needed to get us to the cover of that building.

My commander had made me personally responsible for Ms. Couric and our convoy was being ambushed. I grabbed her by the collar and ran, hunched low, firing on the move.

We rushed to the door and I



Jeremy Clawson

"Cover me," I yelled. "We need to get him in here!"

Covering shots rang out overhead as I grabbed his equipment vest and started dragging him to safety and medical attention.

I hoped he would be all right. We had both been killed once today.

The 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment was in its second week of mobilization training at Fort Riley.

For three days we had been rehearsing battle drills and practicing urban combat scenarios. My job in Afghanistan will be to escort the media.

On this day, a master sergeant played Katie Couric while other soldiers provided the intensity of battle.

While this battle wasn't real, it was real enough to prepare us for Afghanistan.

On this day, all those who died would be resurrected. The reason they died would be explained to them rather than to their loved ones.

We were becoming full-time soldiers again, leaving behind our civilian lives as students, vice principals, teachers and business professionals.

In February, 11 Kansas National Guardsmen and nine Guards-

men from Oklahoma formed the 105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment. All were surprised when we received the call to active service in October.

My wife and I, too, were surprised when the commander called. Preparing to leave our families for more than a year has been hard. I have known the hardship of being separated from my family for a deployment.

In Bosnia as a journalist and in Kosovo as an infantryman, I learned about peacekeeping. Afghanistan and the war we are fighting there are much more volatile. What we have learned as a unit at Fort Riley is essential for our success.

Four weeks ago I didn't know Broyles. He came from the Oklahoma detachment. Today I call him Tony. I trust his abilities and he trusts mine. This training has brought two units together as one.

## Lioness continued from page 6

search the power plant," the officer in charge calls over the radio.

Because I'm in the last vehicle, I run with the others in my vehicles to the power plant.

Halfway there, we hear gunshots close to our location. We hit the dirt and seconds later we're off again, looking for the gunmen who had the gall to shoot at us.

At the entrance to the power plant, the squad leader gives orders, "You two stay here and shoot anything that comes through this gate without the password. You two come with me."

I follow the two men into the compound. We begin a systematic search of the area, clearing the abandoned buildings and looking in all the nooks and crannies for the bad guys.

I think to myself, "this looks just like a video game," with my weapon poised, waiting for the action to begin.

We do not see the gunmen. We go to the last building and search around before we knock on the door and ask the people inside if they have seen or heard anything suspicious. They say, "no." We apologize for the interruption and head back to the patrol.

The whole search of the area yields nothing.

We conduct a quick stop of the traffic at a control point, hoping the gunmen took off in their vehicle and we would catch them before they got away. Still we find nothing.

We continue to drive around town. The men in my vehicle act as tour guides for the city. "Do you remember this alley?" one asks.

The other answers, "Yeah, man. This is Death Row."

They go on to explain that the first patrol they did in that alley ended in a firefight. I don't know

whether or not to believe them, but I'm still cautious, not letting my guard down. We stop for another traffic control point in that alley.

Here I get my first vehicle full of small women and children to search. It is late at night and the family looks tired, like they just want to go home. I cautiously search the women and children as the Destroyer men pull security.

I make a few surprising discoveries that my veteran Lionesses didn't tell me about. Iraqi women are ticklish. One woman giggled through her entire search.

Lastly, Iraqi citizens are more like us than I would like to believe. When going outside the wire, I have to psych myself up, reminding myself that some of these people are very bad, yet some of these people are normal citizens who don't want to harm us. Distinguishing between the

two is always a challenge.

The missions provide so much excitement that the females in my company continually ask when the next Lioness mission is and if they can go.

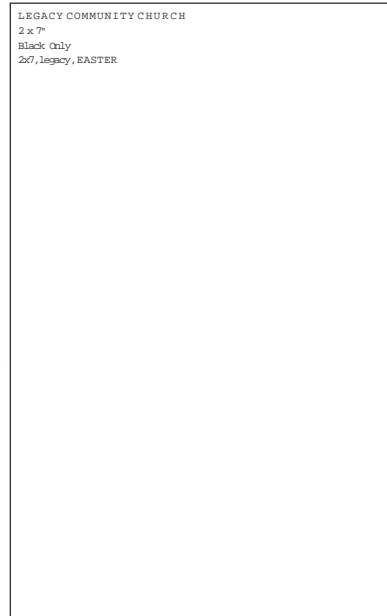
The men in our company also ask when they can go, because they are jealous of the adrenaline rush the missions provide and the recognition that comes from doing these rare missions.

We head home after a few more stops and searches. We have completed another safe mission and everyone returned home safely. I feel proud to be a part of the Lioness teams because I feel like I'm actually in the Army and not just sitting behind a desk.

I report to my commander that we are back and ask, "So, when's the next Lioness mission?"



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# Buffalo Soldier shares history

By Daniel R. Eakins  
2nd Battalion, 34th Armor

Some Soldiers of 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, shooting Tank Table V at the Multi-Purpose Range Complex March 5, took a short break to learn some personal Fort Riley and Army history.

The "Dreadnaught Battalion" hosted Master Sgt. (Ret.) Albert Curley for a noon presentation at the MPRC mess hall. All Soldiers were invited to bring their Meals Ready to Eat and learn about changes Curley has seen in the Army and at Fort Riley. Curley talked about the history of Fort Riley and his own experiences in the Army.

Curley enlisted in the Army at Fort Riley in 1940 and was assigned to Troop A, 9th Cavalry (Horse), which, with the 10th Cavalry, made up the Army's two most famous Buffalo Soldier cavalry regiments. It was the era when the Army segregated African Americans into their own units.

Curley went on to serve in the Italian Campaign during World War II and in Japan at the end of the war. He later served in Kansas, Illinois, Germany, Colorado, Korea, Kentucky, Germany again and Virginia. He was first sergeant of the 561st CS Company when his unit deployed from Virginia to Pleiku, Vietnam.

After returning from Vietnam, Curley served as a first sergeant at Fort Riley until he retired from the Army on March 1, 1969, after 28 years service.

During his service, Curley earned the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Good Conduct Medal with silver loop, American Defense Service Medal and the American Campaign Medal.

He also earned the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with three bronze service stars, National Defense Service Medal with one bronze service star, Vietnam Service Medal with two bronze service stars, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Ribbon with device (1960), Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross with palm, a unit citation and the Expert Marksmanship Badge.

Curley spoke a little bit about the history of Fort Riley and about his own experiences in the Army as it made dramatic changes from World War II to the Vietnam War.

The Army that fought World War II was completely segregated. The Army that fought in Vietnam was completely integrated.

"When Master Sgt. Curley was at Fort Riley, he said there were only two black officers on post," said Staff Sgt. Michael W. Vars, S-3 platoon sergeant. "During World War II, he told us how when black units were decimated in Europe, instead of integrating white Soldiers into the units as replacements, they would transfer the entire black unit to the Pacific to join up with segregated units there."

Pfc. William Hammer, Dreadnaught 7 driver, was impressed by how much the Army has modernized to benefit Soldiers today. "We get paid a lot more than they did and our benefits are a lot better," Hammer said. "In World War II and Vietnam, they didn't even have medical evacuation like we do, Master Sgt. Curley said you would get patched up and then sent right back out to the fight."

Many of the Soldiers were impressed by Curley's sense of values and self-sacrifice and felt it gave them a greater appreciation for the Army's values today.

"Conditions were a lot harder for Soldiers back then, especially African American soldiers," said Pfc. Kerrick Bostick of the S-3 staff. "It reminded me a lot of stories my granddad used to tell."

"Master Sgt. Curley spoke about how they used to put money under their bunks and didn't have to worry about someone taking it," Vars said. "Now we have rules that Soldiers can't even have pennies lying around their barracks room."

## Retirees end more than 60 years service

By Shon Collins  
105th MPAD

Three Fort Riley soldiers with more than 60 years combined experience were honored for their dedication to duty during a retirement ceremony March 31 at Barlow Theater.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Schlaack, Sgt. 1st Class Steven J. Asplund and Staff Sgt. James K. Grange were joined by family and friends who wished them success as they transitioned to civilian life. Chief of Staff Col. Richard R. McPhee commended the three retirees on their

contributions to today's Army.

He compared the "old Soldier" with today's modern warrior, calling them "better trained, educated and experienced."

"These are the good new days that you helped build," McPhee said.

The chief of staff noted several changes that have occurred through the years, including establishment of combat training centers, automation of equipment and the "growth of the reserve force that you helped train."

McPhee also commended the retirees' wives for supporting their husbands and the military community. He referred to

the old adage, "If the Army had wanted you to have a wife, they would have issued you one," but then added that today's Army has changed.

The family is now more involved than ever and can be credited for the support network in place during Desert Storm and Desert Shield, he said.

Two wives, Annette Schlaack and Yvette Asplund, attended the ceremony. Each received a Certificate of Appreciation and a long-stemmed red rose.

Schlaack intends to settle in Milford and to seek employment at Fort Riley. He gave a long list of skills and values he gained while in the military, including a

sense of commitment to family and to his leadership.

Asplund said he will pursue a master's degree in public administration or general administration and would eventually like to teach. "I love working with and passing knowledge along to young people," he said.

Asplund said his wife was one of his best influences and has always been there by his side.

Grange said he is looking forward to working as an environmental inspector and believes he can bring a strong sense of leadership to any job based on his military experience.

## Red Cross thanks volunteers for service to post

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

The American Red Cross chapter at Fort Riley honored its 2003 volunteers March 31 with lunch at the post commanding general's quarters and awards ranging from Volunteer of the Year to pins designating years of service.

Vickie Jurgensmeir accepted her Red Cross Volunteer of the Year award from Maj. Gen. Dennis Hardy, commanding general

of the 24th Infantry Division (Mechanized) and Fort Riley. Jurgensmeir volunteered more than 240 hours of service to the chapter and served as the advisor to its council.

Hardy praised the volunteers attending the recognition ceremony. "It's important we recognize you," he said. "The Army couldn't afford to do what we do for our families without you and the tremendous amount of work you do on a volunteer basis."

Red Cross volunteers donated about 10,000 hours of service to Fort Riley during 2003, the local chapter reported.

"You've done a tremendous amount of good," Hardy said, thanking the volunteers on behalf of all the Soldiers and their families at Fort Riley.

The post chapter honored Roger MaLarkey as Retiree Volunteer of the Year. He volunteered 800 hours of service in the brace shop at Irwin Army Community

Hospital during 2003.

Shontay Osterman received the Youth Volunteer of the Year award for volunteering 213 hours at Irwin Army Community Hospital.

Usa Iverson received the Clara Barton Award, only the fourth person on Fort Riley to be included in that elite club of volunteers. Clara Barton formed the American Red Cross.

"Good Neighbor" awards went to units and organizations that have supported Red Cross pro-

grams and activities. They included the 937th Engineer Group, Installation Chaplain's Office, Enlisted Spouses' Club, Medical Department Activity, Dental Activity, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Fort Riley Commissary and the Craig Fitness Center staff.

Service pins ranged from one year to 26 years for Barbara Zeller and 52 years Janie Sajo. Zeller and Sajo's pins were noted though the two women were not present to accept them.

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# News from the Front

## Artillerymen mark halfway point in tour

By Chris Gundersen  
Fire Direction Officer

As March drew to a close, Soldiers of 1st Platoon Operations Center, Battery A, 1st Battalion, 5th Field Artillery, looked ahead to the dog days of summer.

However, the sense of appreciation gained from team level accomplishments, valuable lessons learned and confidence gained during their first six months in Iraq make any future challenges seem less intimidating.

Team members Staff Sgt. Kevin Gillins, Spc. Adam Fast and Plt. Michael Cruz base this confidence on overcoming an operational tempo that proved to be as intensive and diversified as it was at the beginning of the unit's deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As 1st Bn., 5th FA, assumed its primary mission of base defense, the team immediately recognized they would be moving into uncharted territory. In retrospect, the team attributes its success to the various assets and individuals who played an integral role in enhancing their performance.

When members of 1st POC arrived at Forward Operation Base Junction City in mid-September, it did not take long to realize the mission would be unique. The 1st Bn., 5th FA, POC crews rotated between two 12-hour shifts, seven days a week, and quickly responded to the challenge of providing artillery fire in a fluid, unpredictable combat

environment on a moment's notice.

From mid-September to the beginning of December, 1st POC performed Paladin operation center and hot gun duties with Soldiers of Btry. A.

The 1st POC's leaders implemented constant rehearsals and crew interchangeability in order to accomplish the mission. As a result, the Soldiers of 1st POC distinguished themselves by firing in the first fire mission by 1st Bn., 5th FA, in Operation Iraqi Freedom on their second day at FOB Junction City.

On Nov. 12, 1st POC followed up on their success by firing a counter-fire mission with a total mission time of 1 minute, 28 seconds. This performance exceeded leadership expectations and proved the crew's ability to provide timely artillery fire well ahead of the cutoff time of 2 minutes, 30 seconds.

All together, 1st POC has fired more than 70 rounds without incident in support of 1st Brigade Combat Team operations.

### Battery A Soldiers act as camp's eyes, ears

From early December to the end of January, the Soldiers of Btry. A, 1st Bn., 5th FA, spent countless hours coordinating and monitoring the daily activity around the base perimeter. They served as the eyes and ears of FOB Junction City.

While Soldiers manned the compound's guard towers and gates on shifts that ranged between eight and 12 hours, around the clock, the Soldiers of 1st POC gained new appreciation for their ability to learn and perfect their new craft.

The 1st POC continues to serve as an active Fire Directions Center team as well as providing

needed support to the remainder of Btry. A in its four-month rotation of patrolling the neighboring town of Ta'amim.

Again, the Soldiers of Btry. A found themselves in an unfamiliar position. They were operating as a maneuver unit. However, their familiarity with working within a small, cohesive team and the ability to respond to unpredictable tasks as artillerymen, provided the needed capability to learn new skills.

Tasked with providing the security to the Ta'amim area, the Soldiers of 1st POC participated in operations such as cordon and knock missions, information operations and collaboration with the local police and the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. Each day, 1st POC members have the opportunity to see the fruits of their labor

as school contracts are finalized and city council meetings dictate the direction of Iraqi democracy.

While the ongoing operational tempo continues to be strenuous, the daily life of a 1st POC crewmember would be strained if not for the various outlets available to relieve stress at FOB Junction City. The off-duty hours can find any member of 1st POC enjoying the comfort of a letter from home, watching DVDs or playing video games with their fellow Soldiers. Crewmembers can also visit the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Internet, phone and exercise facilities. The availability of these facilities provide the Soldiers another means of escape from the pressures of a real-world deployment while remaining updated on the rapidly changing pace of life at home.

No FDC shift passes without frequent visits from 1st Bn., 5th FA, Chaplain (Maj.) Mark Moss. His presence among the Soldiers also alleviates stress and allows a forum for spiritual discussion and dissemination of much needed information regarding religious services on the compound.

As the language barrier continues to be a key factor in the execution of each mission in the streets of Ta'amim, Soldiers have routinely sought the guidance and experience of their Arabic translators for insight into a foreign culture.

The members of 1st POC have arrived at the halfway point of their OIF experience. Their accomplishments serve as the needed foundation for the remainder of this deployment as well as future deployments.

## Mother, son pull service together

By Alma H. Barrus  
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — For most Soldiers serving in Iraq, the only contact they have with their families is to write letters and send e-mails or go to the phone center.

One lucky Soldier in the 2nd Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division, had the rare opportunity to see his mother in person at Camp Victory, Baghdad. The "Blackjack" brigade is part of Task Force 1st Armored Division.

"I was told I would be working out of the Baghdad International Airport, and later I found out that I would be staying at Camp Victory," said Department of the Army civilian employee Sheila Lowell. Lowell works for the Army Material Command. "I said I think I know someone who's there."

She is the mother of Sgt. Matthew Lowell of 2nd Platoon, 545th Military Police Company.

"AMC said they needed help with accountability for the contractors when I was at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and I volunteered to go and eventually got here," she said.

"I love the military life wherever I go ... and being able to see my son is a true blessing," Lowell said.

"We're still not sure if she is staying here with BIAP closing down ... but the chances that we would even run into each other over here is pretty slim, and we're thankful for it," her son said.

Military service is an integral part of the Lowell family. Mrs. Lowell grew up as a family member and served in the Army 30 years ago. Her husband, Bill, retired in 1988 after serving 22 years in the Army. He worked in Kuwait as a DA civilian in March 2003.

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# 'ColdSteel' engineers clear Iraqi minefield

## Swollen river presents challenging obstacle

### Special to the Post

Ar Ramadi, Iraq - "ColdSteel" Soldiers of Company C, 1st Engineer Battalion, walked on the wild side March 15 when they set out to clear a field of anti-tank mines planted more than a year before Operation Iraqi Freedom started.

Most active Army units seldom practice clearing a minefield. Combat engineers have long trained on ways to breach a minefield, but the notion of clearing one has, until recently, been considered a mission to accomplish after combat operations cease.

### Safety lane first

Breaching a minefield and clearing one calls for different approaches. To breach a minefield, Soldiers merely create a safe lane through the mines so that friendly forces can move through it. Clearing a minefield requires the deliberate removal of all the mines, either by disarming them or by destroying them.

The March 15 operation resulted in the first live minefield to be cleared by a U.S. Army unit in the Iraqi theater. It was an extremely dangerous mission because many things could have potentially gone wrong.

Because of the many risks involved in this type of operation, the Army does not typically clear minefields. In this instance, the danger the minefield presented if left in place was greater than the dangers involved in removing it.

The operation took place near a large bridge over the river Makhraj Al Majarra in a very remote sector of the Al Anbar Province. The minefield was placed along the length of a road

that could be used as a bypass if the bridge was unsuitable for heavier traffic. In order to bypass the bridge, traffic drops down a steep cut in the embankment to the normally dry riverbed below and then back up a similar bank on the other side.

Between the initial reconnaissance of the site and ColdSteel's arrival for the mission, the water in the river had risen to a depth of more than four feet with a very swift current. The engorged river cut the minefield into two sections, causing the clearing process to be conducted on both sides of the river.

To clear a minefield, a Soldier first uses a mine detector to sweep the minefield around him. If the detector indicates the presence of something below the ground's surface, a second Soldier probes the area to see if a mine is buried in that spot.

Probing is a delicate procedure where a non-metallic rod is inserted into the ground a few inches at a time in order to discover anything buried in that location. The probe is used several times in a suspected spot until the spot is determined to be clear.

### Demolitions used

Once the whole area is searched, the unit prepares to destroy the minefield. On March 15, ColdSteel chose to destroy the mines with demolitions. The Soldiers placed an explosive charge next to each discovered mine. The charge ensures that the mines are also consumed in the blast.

Iraqi doctrine before the war stated that anti-tank minefields would be reinforced with anti-personnel mines placed inside the

field. Knowing that, and because of previous reports indicating that anti-tank mines were present, the ColdSteel soldiers approached the minefield with caution foremost on their minds.

"This is really a complicated and dynamic mission," said Capt. Tyler Faulk, Co. C commander.

"There are so many moving parts to this, to include the convoy to the site, the security at the site, the sweeping operations, the demolitions operations and then sweeping again.

"All of these things had to be taken into account when preparing for this mission, and I think that these Soldiers have done an excellent job preparing for it. They have been very deliberate and careful, respecting the mines at all times, but understanding that they had to go. This is the type of operation that can go a long way towards helping to provide a safer and more secure Iraq," Faulk said.

The "Outlaws" of the 2nd Platoon searched through the minefield for buried anti-personnel and anti-tank mines. They uncovered 33 surface-laid anti-tank mines.

Pfc. Josh Vanderheyden, of the 2nd Platoon, was the first Soldier into the minefield with a mine detector.

"I never thought I'd ever step into a live minefield. The adrenaline was rushing," Vanderheyden said. "I was definitely scared. I didn't know what to expect. I'm just really glad I got to do a mission that is part of my MOS (military occupational specialty)."

Vanderheyden received a coin from the 1st Engineer Battalion's command sergeant major for his actions in the minefield.



## Three-star remarks

Lt. Gen. Thomas Metz, commander, III Corps, addresses the 1st Brigade battalion commanders during a visit to Camp Junction City. Metz received a briefing from the brigade staff about conditions in 1st BCT's area of operation.

1st BCT/Bender

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# Fort Riley Community Life

Friday, April 9, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 13

## Community news briefly

### Pharmacy plans move

Demolition of the Outpatient Pharmacy at Irwin Army Community Hospital begins the week of the April 19.

To accommodate renovation, the Outpatient Pharmacy will move to Inpatient Pharmacy in the hospital's basement starting the evening of April 16.

Hospital officials plan to have the Outpatient Pharmacy fully operational in the basement the morning of April 19.

### Crafts center sets classes

**April 10-11** -- Black and White Photography Orientation, 2 to 4 p.m.

**April 12, 14, 19, 21, 26** -- Beginning Stained Glass (five-session course), 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**April 12** -- Basket Weaving, 6 p.m.

**April 12** -- Ceramic Painting (Flower Pots), 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

**April 12** -- Crochet, Knitting, Cross Stitch, 7 p.m.

**April 13** -- Matting and Framing Orientation, 6 to 9 p.m.

### Teen Center activities:

Upcoming activities planned by Teen Center staff include:

**April 9** - Middle School Dance, 8 to 10:30 p.m.

**April 10** - High School Dance, 9 to 11:30 p.m.

**April 12** - Manhattan Mall Trip, 1 to 4:30 p.m.

**April 16** - Bowling, 6 to 9 p.m.

For more information, call the Teen Center at 239-9222.

The center is located at the corner of Thomas Avenue and Longstreet Drive on Custer Hill.

### Thrift Shop honors pins

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop will take 50 percent off any purchases April 13-15 and 17 for customers who show their volunteer pin.

New board members and a bookkeeper are needed. Anyone interested can pick up an application at the shop, open from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Tuesdays and Wednesdays, from 9:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursdays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 17.

### Arts, crafts entries needed

Entry deadline for the 2004 Army Arts and Crafts Contest is April 14. All active duty, Army Reserves, retirees, family members and Department of Defense civilian employees may enter.

Contestants may enter up to five works in each category: ceramics, wood, fibers/textiles, glass, metals/jewelry, mixed media - 3D, drawing, printmaking, water-based painting, oil-based painting and mixed media - 2D.

All submissions must be the original work of the entrant and must have been finished within 24 months of the contest year.

Entry blanks and contest rules are available at the Arts and Crafts Center, building 6918.

For more information, call 239-9205.



*Post/Skidmore*  
**Kylee Shannon waved her paper decoration during the Child Development Center Parade.**

## Parade launches kids' month

*By Gary Skidmore*  
Command Info Officer

The Month of the Military Child is April. Beginning the festivities this year was the annual Child Development Center's parade.

According to Carole Hoffman, training specialist at the Child Development Center, as many as 400 children marched in the

parade that traveled to the edge of the Post Exchange parking lot and back.

"If the building is full, we have between 215 and 225 children," Hoffman said.

"But our part-day preschool invites all of their kids and that takes the count up to 300."

Hoffman said parents and siblings are invited to participate in the parade, so the number partici-

pants easily can climb above 300.

"We do this every year," Hoffman said. "It's the kick-off for the Month of the Military Child."

Hoffman said, as part of the festivities, every room makes a banner and hangs it on the fence in front of the center.

"We don't let the kids carry them for safety reasons," Hoffman said. "We don't want someone to trip and fall."

Hoffman said the kids also make hats, decorate shirts or make shakers or noisemakers.

"Every room is different," she said. "They even make up their own songs (to sing)."

Hoffman said the center would have some sort of activity every week during the Month of the Military Child.

"It's our way to get the parents

*See Parade, Page 14*

## Cadets shine



*Post/Heronemus*

**Members of the Junction City High School Blue Jay Battalion's unarmed regulation drill team compete April 3, during the Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet at Junction City. The team tied for first place.**

## Local unit hosts drill meet

*By Mike Heronemus*  
Editor

The Junction City High School's Jr. ROTC program competed April 3 against cadets from 16 schools in four states during the 21st annual Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet. The meet was hosted at Junction City High School.

The Blue Jay Battalion tied for first place in the unarmed regulation drill event with Bellevue East Team No. 1, said Lt. Col. (Ret.) Robert Kennedy, Jr. ROTC senior instructor at Junction City High School.

Cadet Capt. Hedrick Cintron and Cadet Maj. Martin Delaney combined to win the dual drill with weapons event. Cadet Ernest Alanis won the individual drill with weapon, and Cintron placed fourth in that event.

Twenty-one senior noncommissioned officers stationed at Fort Riley judged the events, which began at 8 a.m. and continued through 4:30 p.m.

Cadet Col. Juan Ortiz, son of Staff Sgt. and Mrs. Jose Ortiz of Fort Riley, commands the Blue Jay Battalion. This year's invitational meet drew at least 340 cadets to Junction City, he said. Schools from Iowa, Nebraska, Missouri and Kansas sent units of 20 to 50 cadets to the meet, he said. Some units had two teams entered in events.

There are about 200 cadets from the Blue Jay Battalion, Ortiz said. Most of them served in administrative capacities April 3, making sure the drill meet ran smoothly. They started about 6 a.m. with a breakfast for early arrivals.

Junction City has hosted the meet for three of the past four years and Ortiz participated in each one, he said. The battalion cancelled the meet in 2001, he said. Ortiz joined the Blue Jay Battalion as a freshman four years ago.

"I think this is a great experience for the cadets. It's a major action and a great lesson. They got to see what you had to plan,

*See Cadets, Page 15*



*Post/Heronemus*

**Cadet Maj. Martin Delaney (left) and Cadet Capt. Hedrick Cintron perform their dual drill routine with weapons for Fort Riley judges.**

## Housing policy requires class, memo

*Families can stay on post for absences*

*By Matthew Fearing*  
105th MPAD

Soldiers taking a short, dependent-restricted tour overseas and who want to retain Fort Riley housing for their families must attend a class and submit a written memorandum justifying the retention.

The classes are held in conjunction with the Permanent Change in Station briefings conducted at the Soldier and Family Support Center in building 7264 each Wednesday at 1:30 p.m. The Soldier and spouse should attend the meeting.

Before attending the meeting, Soldiers should take a copy of their orders to the Housing Office in building 45 and pick up a retention request form. The form provides information regarding housing retention on Fort Riley and what should be included in the request for retention.

According to Elbert Newman of the Fort Riley Housing Division, retention requests are generally granted.

Paula Fultz, special projects officer for housing, said requests are made for a variety of reasons. Besides short, unaccompanied overseas assignments, Soldiers request retention of housing for some short stateside assignments and to allow their children to complete the school year before moving their families.

Should retention of housing be granted, the spouse assumes responsibility for the upkeep of the quarters. The spouse also will be responsible for clearing quarters before moving.

The new policy took effect April.

For more information, call Paula Fultz at 239-3265 in Carr Hall, building 45.

## Band of Brothers TV series features six Soldiers

*Army News Service*

WASHINGTON — The personal experiences of six Soldiers will be highlighted as part of the airing of the "Band of Brothers" mini-series on the History Channel.

The segments connect the Soldiers fighting for their country today to the men who fought with "Easy Company" during World War II.

The Soldiers' stories began airing last week as promotional seg-

ments for the mini-series, which is based on the best-selling book by Stephen Ambrose that features the Soldiers of "Easy Company."

The promotional segments will vary in length from one to 10 minutes. A half-hour preview program, now showing on the channel, caps the segments.

The Soldiers will give lead-ins and recaps of most episodes in the series.

The program ties together the historical and modern Army by tracing a lasting set of values. The

### Show time

*The History Channel series "Band of Brothers" airs beginning 8 p.m. April 11.*

footage features Soldiers who have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan talking about their experiences serving overseas and what their Army service means to them. Their stories are

paralleled with those of the men of Company E, 506th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 101st Airborne Division.

Four of the featured Soldiers in the stories also are from the 101st Abn. Div. They are Pfc. Cameron Sharp, Sgt. 1st Class David Ainslie,

1st Sgt. Charles Haley and Capt. Kevin Williams.

Also featured is Spec. Richard A. Jacob of the 3rd Squadron, 7th U.S. Cavalry, 3rd Infantry Division, the lead unit to enter Iraq;

and Sgt. Josiah "Bret" Blalock of the 10th Mountain Division (Light Infantry), who participated in cave-clearing operations in Afghanistan.

"The Army is a bond ... it's a band of brothers," Williams said in one segment. "It just can't be recreated in any other situation. I'm very proud to be a part of the Army."

"Once you put on this uniform, you feel like you're doing something a lot of people can't do," Jacob said.



Post/Heronemus

Sgt. Robert Acridge (second from left) helps Lindsay Middleton pick out a gift item from a stand his father, Bob Acridge (left) set up at the annual spring bazaar on Fort Riley April 3-4.

## Spring bazaar runs smoothly in midst of redeployments

By Mike Heronemus  
Editor

Attendance was down at the annual spring bazaar April 3-4 this year because of the many redeployments and families taking vacations and time to themselves, said Sherri Weber, coordinator of this year's event.

"We had a big redeployment on Friday (the day before the bazaar) and a small one on Saturday. Then there was another one on Monday (after the bazaar)," she said. "But, we're glad to have them home."

About 60 vendors set up their wares in hangar 817. Gloria Hamilton set up her booth for the first time this year and said the first morning that business was OK even though the crowd was sparse.

Weber said it took as many as 100 people to plan and run the bazaar, not counting all the

great support she got from organizations on post who helped with a variety of things, including easy access to the hangar from Interstate 70.

All our proceeds go to the Officers' and Civilians' Spouses' Club's community assistance fund, Weber said. "So, whatever we made, we're grateful to have."

Some cadets of the Junction City High School Jr. ROTC Blue Jay Battalion helped children jump on the inflatable attraction set up inside the hangar. At the high school, fellow cadets were running and competing in the Mid-American Invitational Drill Meet that brought cadets from 16 other schools to Junction City.

Some Family Readiness Groups set up refreshment stands to raise money for their activities. FRGs with booths included 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery; 10th ASOS, 101st Forward Support Battalion; 1st Battalion, 16th Infantry; and 2nd Battalion, 70th Armor.



Post/Heronemus

Jr. ROTC cadets Shawn Edwards (left) and Andrew Vancleave help children enter the inflated attraction at the bazaar.



Post/Heronemus

Molly Iverson takes Tabitha Haynes' order for a chili dog, chips and a drink at food stand set up by 10th ASOS.

## AAFES acquires 'Passion' movie

First copies go to Iraq theaters, Europe, Pacific

### AAFES

DALLAS -- The Army and Air Force Exchange Service recently received copies of Mel Gibson's "The Passion of the Christ."

Early copies of the popular movie were earmarked for troops stationed outside of the continental United States. AAFES rushed the film prints to overseas "Reel Time" theaters.

Once the prints are received by overseas "Reel Time" theaters, "The Passion of the Christ" will be circulated to 60 theaters throughout Europe and the Pacific, including locations where Soldiers are deployed in support of Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom.

"It was only through the cooperation of Icon Productions, Terry Steiner International and Newmarket Films that AAFES was able to procure this film for troops stationed overseas," said Richard Sheff, AAFES' vice president of food and theater.

"We will continue to work with these and other partners to acquire "The Passion of the Christ" for military audiences in CONUS," He said.

AAFES actively pursued acquisition of "The Passion of the Christ" since its opening. Because of the film's commercial success — \$300 million in ticket sales — AAFES had been unable to acquire prints for military audiences.

As it ships prints of the movie overseas, AAFES continues to pursue acquisition of more copies for CONUS "Reel Time" theaters.



Post/Skidmore

Module 6 Caregivers Betty Roberts and Gloria Page had as much fun as the kids during the Month of the Military Child kick-off parade.



Post/Skidmore

Matthew Diaz (Left) and Robert Carpenter from Module 9 of the Child Development Center shook their noise makers the entire route of the parade.

## Parade continued from page 13

and families involved in the month," she said. "It's a way of bringing all of our families together, putting a positive note on being a military family."

Hoffman said the post's observance is an attempt to let the community and the families know that being a military child is a positive thing. "We want to bring that out to everyone know it's OK to be a military family and a military child. We're proud of being a military family," she said.

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# Cadets

continued from page 13

what goes wrong and how to fix it," Ortiz said. As of 9:30 a.m. April 3, nothing had really gone wrong, he said, except that some burned popcorn set off the school's fire alarm.

Ortiz credited the success of the meet to everyone in the battalion working together despite the great diversity in everyone's backgrounds. "We have cadets from military families, from retiree families and from families whose parents have not been in the military," he said.

## Schools competing:

Junction City, Junction City  
Abraham Lincoln, Council Bluffs, Iowa  
Bellevue East, Bellevue, Neb.  
Bellevue West, Bellevue, Neb.

Central, Saint Joseph, Mo.  
East Waterloo, Waterloo, Iowa  
Herbert Hoover, Des Moines, Iowa  
Highland Park, Topeka  
Lee's Summit, Lee's Summit, Mo.  
Northeast, Kansas City, Mo.  
Ottumwa, Ottumwa, Iowa  
Shawnee Heights, Tecumseh  
Topeka West, Topeka  
Westport Senior Academy, Kansas City, Mo.  
Wichita North, Wichita  
Wichita South, Wichita  
Wichita West, Wichita

## Meet results:

**Individual drill with weapon:**  
1st - Cadet Ernest Alanis, Junction City  
4th - Cadet Capt. Hedrick Cintron, Junction City

**Dual drill with weapon:**  
1st - Cadet Capt. Hedrick Cintron and Cadet Maj. Martin Delaney, Junction City  
**Armed regulation drill:**  
1st - Bellevue West No. 2  
2nd - Topeka West No. 1  
3rd - Ottumwa  
4th - Bellevue East No. 1  
5th - Wichita South  
**Armed exhibition:**

1st - Bellevue West No. 2  
2nd - Northeast No. 1  
3rd - Bellevue West No. 1  
4th - Bellevue East No. 1  
5th - Abraham Lincoln No. 2  
**Unarmed regulation drill:**  
1st - Bellevue East No. 1  
2nd (tied for first) - Junction City  
3rd - Bellevue West No. 1  
4th - Topeka West No. 1  
5th - Lee's Summit No. 1

**Unarmed exhibition:**  
1st - Bellevue West No. 2  
2nd - Abraham Lincoln No. 2  
3rd - Highland Park No. 1  
4th - Bellevue East No. 1  
5th - Bellevue West No. 1  
**Color Guard:**  
1st - Wichita South No. 1  
2nd - Northeast No. 1  
3rd - Wichita North No. 1  
4th - Westport No. 1  
5th - Lee's Summit No. 1

**Overall best in armed events:**  
1st - Bellevue West No. 2  
2nd - Bellevue West No. 1  
3rd - Bellevue East No. 1  
**Overall best in unarmed events:**  
1st - Bellevue West No. 2  
2nd - Bellevue East No. 1  
3rd - Bellevue West No. 1  
**Overall best at the meet:**  
Bellevue West No. 2



Post/Heronemus  
Air Force Jr. ROTC Cadet Kurtis Scully from Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, Iowa, spins his weapon while competing in the individual drill category.



Post/Heronemus  
The color guard from Wichita South High School's Jr. ROTC battalion case the colors at the conclusion of their performance at the Mid-America Invitational Drill Meet April 3, at Junction City High School.



Post/Heronemus  
Blue Jay Battalion cadets Maj. Martin Delaney (left) and Capt. Hedrick Cintron complete their dual drill with weapons for before judge Sgt. 1st Class Luis Viera of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Infantry Division (Mech).



Post/Heronemus  
Finalists in the individual drill down prepare to follow commands of a Fort Riley senior non-commissioned officer. Other Fort Riley NCOs judged the cadets' performance until only one cadet remained.



Post/Heronemus  
Cadet Maj. Amber Cole, battalion commander at Topeka West High School, stands at attention after qualifying as a finalist in individual drill down.

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# Fort Riley Sports & Recreation

Friday, April 9, 2004

America's Warfighting Center

Page 17

## Sports news in brief

### Law Day golf tourney set

The annual Law Day Golf Tournament will be April 29, at Custer Hill Golf Course. A rain date of May 7 has been set.

The command group, major subordinate and battalion commanders, local dignitaries, members of the Geary and Riley County bar associations and the public will be invited to play in the tournament.

A myriad of prizes, such as for overall winners, longest drive for a male, longest drive for a female, closest drive to the pin for males and for females and closest drive to the line, will be awarded, as well as various door prizes.

For more information, call Capt. Juan F. Garcia at 239-3117.

### King program offers exercise

**April 12** - Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

**April 13** - "Get On Track-Abs and Back," 9 a.m.

**April 13** - Company-Level Slow-Pitch Softball Clinic, 1:30 p.m.

**April 13** - Battalion-Level Slow-Pitch Softball Clinic, 1:30 p.m.

**April 13** - Women's Battalion-Level Slow-Pitch Softball Clinic, 1:30 p.m.

**April 15** - Aerobics, 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

For more information, call King Field House at 239-3868.

### Fitness centers floors repaired

Fitness center floors are scheduled to be sanded and refinished in April and May. Floors will be worked on and unavailable for use according to the following schedule:

**King Field House:** Floor and racquetball, April 26-May 7

**Long Fitness Center:** Floor and racquetball, April 5-23

**Leonard Fitness Center:** Racquetball court and entryway to court, April 26-30

**Craig Fitness Center:** Racquetball court, May 10-14

### BOSS hosting golf tournament

Better Opportunities for Single Soldiers is hosting the Rusty Club Classic Golf Tournament April 15, at 10 a.m. at Custer Hill Golf Course. The four-person golf scramble costs \$100 per four-player team and includes lunch, cart, green fees and prizes. Mulligans will be available and the tournament will be flighted based on scores. Call the golf course at 784-6000 to register.

### Rec center wants turkey beards

The Outdoor Recreation Center staff invites all post hunters to enter a Longest Turkey Beard contest. Hunters must register their entries now through April 13, at the center. Cost is \$10 per person.

Prizes will be awarded in three categories: typical, non-typical and youth. All turkeys must have been shot on Fort Riley. Beards can be measured by employees at the recreation center, building 9011, or at the natural resources office in building 1020.

The Outdoor Recreation Center is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays.

For more information, call 239-2363 or 239-6368.

## Soccer kicks off



Anthony Junria (right) of the Enforcers, and Brian Mason (center) of the Delta Dragons go for the ball during the opening game of the spring soccer league play. Larissa Kupczyk of the Delta Dragons comes up to assist.

## Delta Dragons taste revenge in season opener

Anthony Junria of the Enforcers, tries to work the ball past Delta Dragons defender Lewis Lampkin during the opening game of the spring soccer league.

105th MPAD/Bullard

See more photos on page 20



By Lindy L. White

105th MPAD

April Fool's Day kicked off the co-ed spring soccer league at Fort Riley with Detachment D, 15th Personnel Services Battalion, Dragons posting a 3-2 victory against the 924th Military Police Battalion Enforcers.

A mere 16 minutes into the game, the Enforcers' Kenny Jacobsen launched a kick from near mid-field that found the back of the net over the outstretched arms of the 15th PSB goalkeeper. Jacobsen's goal put the MPs on top for most of the first half.

The Dragons' captain, Kenneth Horton, scored two goals, his last one clinching the win.

Horton said the win was a nice start to the league after going winless during the basketball league and logging only one win in football.

"What I like about the team is that people keep on striving, and they play hard whether they know this game or not," he said. "This is also good exercise and gets people out."

Horton's teammate Manuel Robles scored during a penalty kick midway through the game. He is from the Judge Advocate General's office of the 6025th Garrison Support Unit.

## Annual search for volunteers begins

Stampede coordinator wants reliable help in turn for free admission

By Gary Skidmore

Command Info. Officer

Country Stampede is scheduled for June 24-27 at Tuttle Creek State Park in Manhattan.

About 350 volunteers are needed this year to operate in a variety of positions. According to Mick McCallister, volunteer coordinator for the four-day event, positions for the volunteers are based on past performance and telephone interviews.

"I look for certain information when deciding on who should serve soda and water as opposed to who should serve alcoholic beverages," McCallister said.

"We have volunteers returning for the seventh year. Some of

these volunteers look forward to the change of pace from their normal jobs and the satisfaction that comes with service to patrons."

McCallister said volunteers come from a variety of backgrounds, including doctors and lawyers.

"We have had medical professionals, lawyers, mid-level managers, supervisors, college students and many other employment diversities," he said.

According to McCallister, the volunteer staff is required to perform service five to six hours per day for three days — a Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"These people are very conscientious, show up on time and provide excellent service," McCallister said.

According to McCallister, sometimes the weather doesn't cooperate for the entire weekend.

"The volunteers have always been persistent and continue to do the things that need to be done to make each event successful, he said.

"For their support, the volunteers receive admission to the festival kick-off on Thursday and other performances Friday through Sunday.

"They receive seating alongside the VIP area seating, which is very good seating when compared to the amount of patrons that will attend," McCallister said.

According to McCallister, volunteers also receive a Stampede T-shirt and three meals per day.

According to McCallister, at

least half the volunteers have been military members or a spouse of a military member.

"This year we hope our deployed soldiers will be back in time to enjoy the Stampede and maybe volunteer," he said.

To volunteer, contact McCallister at 239-2727 or 762-6615

### Stampede schedule:

#### Thursday, June 24

Gates open at 4 p.m.  
Kick-Off Party featuring 94 Karaoke at 4:30 p.m.; Shevy Smith at 6 p.m.; Rushlow at 7:30 p.m. and Mark Wills at 9:30 p.m.

#### Friday, June 25

Gates open at 11 a.m.

Harry Luge at noon, Cowboy Crush at 1:30 p.m., Josh Turner at 3 p.m., Pat Green at 5:30 p.m., Clay Walker at 7:15 p.m. and Rasca Flatts at 9:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 26

Gates open at 11 a.m.  
Jeffrey Steele at noon, Dustin Evans at 1 p.m., Nitty Gritty Dirt Band at 3 p.m., Joe Nichols at 5 p.m., Darryl Worley at 7:15 p.m. and Brooks and Dunn at 9:30 p.m.

#### Sunday, June 27

Gates open at 11 a.m.  
Blue County at 12:30 p.m., Craig Morgan at 2 p.m., Terri Clark at 4 p.m., Charlie Daniels at 6 p.m. and the Steve Miller Band at 8 p.m.



# MPs 'hold' sports trophies for now

**Post suspends Commander's Trophy competition until soldiers return**

By Matthew Fearing  
105th MPAD

Soldiers once battled on the fields and courts of Fort Riley before greater battles beckoned them to Bosnia, Afghanistan and Iraq.

Battalions competed for the Clinton Dattel Commander's Trophy, pitting their Soldiers and teams in various athletic challenges.

One battalion each year became Fort Riley's best in athletic competition.

But, Soldier deployments reduced the number of battalions able to compete in post sports programs to the point where the Commander's Trophy has not been awarded since 2002.

According to Fort Riley Sports Director Jim Westerhaus, "the Commander's Trophy competition is on hold until units begin returning later this year."

The Commander's Trophy could still go on this year with a shorter cycle, Westerhaus said, but "it depends upon the units."

Fort Riley Intramural Director Barry Sunstrom pushed back some of the events' starting dates in case returning units want to participate.

The Fort Riley Sports Department established the Commander's Trophy in 1984. It was renamed the Clinton Dattel Commander's Trophy at a dedication ceremony in July 1989.

Dattel volunteered for the 1st Infantry Division when it was organized in 1917 as the First Expeditionary Division.

During World War I he represented the Big Red One as welter-weight boxing champion.

He went on to win the welter-weight division for the Army of Occupation.

Fort Riley now presents two trophies. One is awarded for women's competition; the other is awarded for men's competition.

The competitions begin with volleyball in April and conclude the year by the following March with basketball.

Each battalion may participate in all 15 competitions, but the battalions wishing to compete for the Commander's Trophy must submit a memorandum to the sports director indicating which nine men's sports or six women's sports the battalion will use for the Commander's Trophy contest.

The sports department schedules competitions in volleyball, soccer, bowling, slow-pitch softball, track and field, tennis, golf,

swimming, flag football, cross country, boxing, power lifting, wrestling, racquetball and basketball.

Points are awarded for unit participation, post championships, post athlete of the year winners and All-Army participation.

Westerhaus said, "Participation points are heavily weighted." Battalions that have full subordinate units participating in an activity receive 200 points.

Points are prorated for less than full subordinate involvement.

First place in a sport garners the unit 120 points. Each subsequent place finisher receives fewer points.

So, where are the Commander's Trophies?

They rest side by side in an office of the 924th Military Police Battalion.

In the 2002 men's competition, the MPs edged out 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery, 3,267 points to 3,182.

In the 2002 women's competition, the MPs completed the competition more than 1,000 points ahead of the second-place 541st Maintenance Battalion.

Since competition was shelved for 2003, the trophies have remained with the 924th MPs.



**Fort Riley's Commander's Trophies remain on display at the 924th Military Police Battalion, the last men's and women's teams to win them.**

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## Tiny animals fill Kansas air with noisy chorus

Spring weather prompts boisterous mating serenades sung by tiny frogs

Carla Hurlbert

DES, Fish and  
Wildlife Biologist

The western chorus frog (*Pseudacris triseriata*) is often the first frog to become active in the spring. Residents of Fort Riley should already be hearing the calls of the western chorus frog. They are usually heard in early March with increasing numbers until they peak in April. Large choruses can be heard from wet-



Carla  
Hurlbert

lands day and night.

The western chorus frog is characterized by a white or cream-colored stripe along the upper lip, bordered by a dark brown stripe running through

the eye from the nostril to the groin. They have three relatively wide, dark stripes down the back. The body color can vary from gray to brown, olive or reddish. The underside is white or cream-colored.

These tiny frogs range from 3/4- to 1 1/4-inch long. The body is long and slender compared to the short legs. They have toe pads but are very tiny and difficult to see except with magnification.

### On the Wildside: News About Nature

The females tend to be larger and males have a yellow colored vocal sac that appears as a dark, loose flap of skin when not calling.

These frogs are members of the tree frog family Hylidae, which is characterized by adhesive toe pads, allowing them to climb. But, because they have small, poorly developed pads, they are not as agile at climbing as many tree frogs, although they can and do climb.

The western chorus frogs are true prairie frogs. They prefer habitat with dense herbaceous vegetation and temporary wetlands for breeding. They live in prairie marshes, pasture ponds, floodplains and urban wetlands. These areas of less permanent water offer reduced risk of egg and tadpole predation by other animals, such as fish. They eat small invertebrates such as aquatic and semiaquatic insects and spiders.

See Wildside, Page 20

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Harder, a member of the Iraqi Olympic Weightlifting Team, lifts 205 kilos (451 pounds) at the new training facility in the Mustinsirra area of Baghdad on March 16.

## Soldiers help lifters

1st Armored Division improves Olympic facility

By Benjamin Cossel  
122nd MPAD

BAGHDAD, Iraq — As part of an on-going effort to build a better Iraq, the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 1st Armored Division, has given financial and engineering support to the renovation of the Iraqi Olympic Weightlifting Team's training facility.

Brigade commanders in Baghdad were tasked to identify projects within their operating areas that would benefit from American or nongovernmental agency financial and engineering support.

The Iraqi Olympic Team's training facilities fall within the "Ready First" Brigade's purview of the Rusafa and Aadhaniya districts of Baghdad.

"When we first got to the city, the Olympic facilities were in complete disarray. Buildings were destroyed, equipment had been looted and a good portion of the athletes had already left the country," said Col. Peter R. Mansoor, 1st Brigade Combat Team commander.

According to published reports, Uday Hussein, son of former regime leader Saddam Hussein, decimated Iraq's Olympic training facilities and programs. Athletes who didn't win medals

were killed, imprisoned, or tortured.

Many left the country in hopes of competing elsewhere.

"We worked with Ahmed Al-Samori, the head of the interim Iraqi Olympic Committee, and determined that Iraq's best chance for a medal at Athens, Greece, was the weightlifting team," Mansoor said.

"In order for the team to be competitive, we needed to renovate the facility," he said.

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 36th Infantry Regiment, made the initial assessment of the existing facilities.

After the facility was appraised, the division provided \$36,000 through the Commander's Emergency Response Program, said Staff Sgt. Blanche A. Woffindale of Company B, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion.

The project was authorized in February and work began.

Members of the Iraqi weightlifting team said they were pleased with the progress made so far and were training hard in the renovated facility.

The athletes are lifting upwards of 30 to 40 tons a day, said Tiras Odisho, Iraq's National Olympic Committee director.

Iraq's highest hope for a medal at Athens rests on the compact,

powerhouse shoulders of a lifter known as Muhammad. He made the 2004 Olympic Team at a qualifying tournament in Vancouver, Canada, earlier this year.

The team travels first to Bulgaria then to Kazakhstan in a series of Olympic qualifying tournaments.

Harder, a member of the team, would recently have set a world record if his lift had counted. The lift was performed during a training session captured on film by a Cable News Network television crew. During a progress review of the facilities March 16, Harder lifted an impressive 205 kilograms (451 lbs).

"Having been in Iraq for almost a year, it is very clear that sports has a great future," said Mansoor. All colleges in Iraq will begin implementing weightlifting programs at the freshman and sophomore levels with the help of donations of 30 sets of weightlifting equipment also being provided by the division.

Plans are currently in the works to start a weightlifting program for the women's team, which may be ready to compete in a series of meets in Qatar in 2006.

"Nothing will make us prouder than to see you march into the stadium in Athens under the Iraqi flag," Mansoor told the athletes.

## Post stocks Moon Lake

Catfish to await youngsters at fishing clinic

### Staff report

About 750 catfish will be waiting to be caught April 24 at Moon Lake on Fort Riley. Children 15 years old and younger can try their skills that day as part of the post's third annual fishing clinic sponsored by the Directorate of Environment and Safety.

The clinic is free and open to children of all Department of Defense ID card holders. The young anglers should provide their own fishing gear, a chair to

sit in and refreshments. Food and drinks will not be available at the lake.

Participants can register in advance through April 16 by filling out a registration card at building 407 and printed in a special insert to the April 16 Post.

The registration form also is available on the Fort Riley Web site. Go to the events column and click on the fishing clinic link. The registration form link is at the bottom of the clinic announcement.

Late registration will be

allowed at Moon Lake from 7 to 7:45 a.m. April 24. Fishing begins at 8 a.m. and ends at noon.

Besides offering children time to enjoy fishing for one or more of the stocked catfish, the annual Earth Day event will include educational displays promoting awareness of energy and other resources needed to support American lifestyles.

The displays also encourage conservation and reduction of waste. Recyclable materials will be collected at Moon Lake during the fishing clinic.

## Wildside

continued from page 1

The loud choruses are in and around temporary water sources. In order to attract females, the males sing day and night. The males often call from under vegetation but sometimes they call out in the open.

To be able to make this loud call, the males take in air, inflating their lungs and throat pouch. Then they close their nostrils and force air back and forth between the lungs and throat pouch, passing the air over their vocal cords. The throat pouch can expand to the point where it looks like it will burst. When filled with air, the vocal sac serves as a resonator that will increase the vol-

ume of the call. The throat pouch remains inflated during the call. Each frog and toad species has a different call and can be identified easily by that particular call.

These frogs breed chiefly during March and April but take advantage of summer rains to breed in temporary ponds. The female deposits about 100 eggs in clusters that are attached to objects in the water. Each female may deposit a total of 500 to 1,500 eggs. Eggs hatch in 12 to 16 days, depending upon the water temperature. After hatching, the tadpoles transform into adult frogs in eight to 10 weeks.

Predators of the western chorus frog include large birds, small mammals, snakes and other frogs.

Listening to and viewing frogs and toads can be fun and challenging. To see these special creatures a person has to get out into some of the wetland areas where the western chorus frog is breeding. Seekers should walk quietly and try to disturb the water as little as possible. The vibrations in the water from a person's movements may disturb the frogs and they may stop calling. If the chorus stops, a person should stand still for a little while and they'll usually start back up.

## Dragons win opener

See story on page 17



105th MPAD/Dyer  
Donald Beatty of the Enforcers, knees the ball during the opening league game.



105th MPAD/Dyer  
Delta Dragons' Goalie Tim Gutierrez, stops a shot from Michael Bromund (right) of the Enforcers during the season opening soccer game April 1.

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# 1st Brigade motorcycle rodeo promotes safe riding

By Gary Skidmore  
Command Info. Officer

Spring is here. The weather is getting warmer every day. It's this time of year people start working in their gardens, going for long walks and riding their motorcycles.

Last week, several members of the 1st Brigade held a motorcycle rodeo to teach riders about maintenance on their motorcycles, show them what to be aware of when riding a motorcycle and then put their knowledge to the test by organizing a bike ride to Abilene.

According to Sgt. 1st Class Lance Antilla, 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor, dining facility manager

and an avid motorcyclist, the rodeo was organized to help riders be safe.

"The whole concept for the rodeo is safety," Antilla said. "There are a lot of new riders, a lot of people that have not ridden a motorcycle before and this rodeo is designed to help them be safe. Soldiers will ride regardless, so at least we're giving them the tools to make sure when they get on their bikes, they aren't just getting on and riding away."

"They're checking them over, making sure the tires are inflated properly, making sure the mirrors are adjusted and that the lights work. They're pulling their PMCS like they would in the military," Antilla said.

Antilla said the rodeo was divided into three phases.

"The first thing we're doing is going over maintenance on motorcycles," he said. Volunteers from three prominent motorcycle shops in the area donated their time to discuss maintenance and care for motorcycles.

Antilla said the riders are then put through their paces on a skills course designed by Dan Meyer and Jeff Young, contractors that conduct the beginners and advanced riders course on Fort Riley.

Following the skills course, the group rode to Abilene.

"We make sure everyone understands what it's like to ride in a large formation," Antilla said. "We want to make sure everyone's doing it the right way."

Don Browning, a military safety specialist with the 24th Infantry Division said the course was a good idea because newer riders learn from those with more experience.

"There's a lot of information put out at one of these rodeos," Browning said. "Younger, less experienced riders gain a lot of knowledge just by listening to the experience of the older riders."

Browning said Fort Riley offers classes for experienced motorcycle riders on Marshall Army Airfield every Friday in April.

"There is an Experienced Riders Course every Friday this month," Browning said. "Beginning next month, the course will be offered two times a month through late September or early October."

Browning said beginning in late September or early October, the classes will go back to every Friday to accommodate the Soldiers from the 1st BCT that should be returning to Fort Riley

around then.

Additionally, Browning noted that Fort Riley is conducting beginner motorcycle classes for the less experienced wannabe riders.

April 24-25, Fort Riley will offer for the very first time a beginners motorcycle class for people with absolutely no experience on a motorcycle, Browning said.

"We'll train eight people at a time," he said.

"This class is for someone who has never ridden a motorcycle but thinks they may want to. It's for the most basic person," Browning said.

Browning said people interested in taking the class only need to have long pants, a long sleeved shirt, at least ankle high boots and gloves.

"Motorcycles, helmets and eye protection will be provided by the contractors," he said.

Browning said anyone interested in either class should call 239-0446. If they have a question for him specifically, he can be reached at 239-2073.



Post/Skidmore  
Staff Sgt. Jim Christensen (left) watches Jim Weeden as he works on his motorcycle. Christensen and other members of the 1st Brigade participated in the 1st BCT Motorcycle Rodeo.

## Ride right, ride safely

*Wearing the appropriate safety equipment when riding motorcycles reduces the severity of injuries and the chances of death or permanent disability in the event of a motorcycle crash. To better enforce established Fort Riley motorcycle safety guidelines, guards at access control points to the installation will begin denying access or issuing tickets to military and civilian motorcycle operators and passengers not in compliance with the guidelines. Military Police patrols also will begin conducting checkpoints on post to verify adherence to the policy. Military violators can be cited and nonaffiliated civilians can be escorted off post for noncompliance. Fort Riley's motorcycle safety policy requires riders to wear the following equipment as they ride: A U.S. Department of Transportation approved helmet properly fastened under the chin. Impact or shatter resistant goggles or a full-face shield attached to the helmet. The operator may not substitute windshield or fairing for proper eye protection. Additionally, eyeglasses alone are not proper eye protection. Full-fingered gloves, long trousers, long sleeved shirt or jacket, leather boots or over the ankle shoes and a reflective vest at all times. If a backpack or T-bag (sissy-bar bag) covers or blocks any portion of the reflective vest, an additional vest will be placed on the outside of that pack or bag.*

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# Travel & Fun in Kansas

Page 24

America's Warfighting Center

Friday, April 9, 2004

## Leisuretime ideas in brief

### In Manhattan:

**"Larry the Cable Guy"** — Bramlage Coliseum, Kansas State University, April 21 at 8 p.m., military discount of \$10 per ticket are on sale now at Bramlage. Reserved tickets with \$10 discount are \$22.75 plus service charges.

**Spiritual Journeys: The Art of Robert Sudlow** — An exhibition of work by Kansas artist Robert Sudlow, through May 9, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Mariana Kistler Beach Museum of Art on the Kansas State University campus, 701 Beach Lane. For more information, call (785) 532-7718 or visit [www.ksu.edu/bma](http://www.ksu.edu/bma) on the Internet.

**Viola soloist** — Guest artist Christine Rutledge Russell will perform free on the baroque viola at 7:30 p.m. April 12, in the All Faiths Chapel Auditorium on the Kansas State University Campus.

**Brass concert** — The K-State Brass Ensemble will perform free at 7:30 p.m. April 13, in the All Faiths Chapel.

**Faculty quintet** — The K-State Faculty Brass Quintet will perform free at 7:30 p.m. April 15, in the All Faiths Chapel.

**Glee club** — The K-State Men's Glee Club will perform at 7:30 p.m. April 16, in McCain Auditorium on the K-State campus. Admission will be charged.

**Clarinet concert** — The K-State Clarinet Choir and K-State Tuba and Euphonium Ensemble will perform free at 7:30 p.m. April 19, in the All Faiths Chapel.

**Jazz** — The K-State Jazz Bands will perform free at 7:30 p.m. April 22, in McCain Auditorium.

**K-State Singers** — The K-State Singers will perform at 8 p.m. April 23 in McCain Auditorium. Admission will be charged.

**Concert choir** — The K-State Concert Choir will present Brahms' "Requiem" free at 7:30 p.m. April 27, in All Faith's Chapel.

**Women's Glee Club** — The K-State Women's Glee Club will perform free at 7:30 p.m. April 29, in All Faith's Chapel.

For more information about K-State events, call (785) 532-6415.

### In Abilene:

**Heritage Toy Show** — See old and new toys. Buy, sell, or trade. April 17, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 619 Rogers, Sterl Hall in Eisenhower Park. For more information, call (785) 263-2681.

**Block party** — The second annual Abilene Area Community Mingle will take place from 1 to 5 p.m. April 25, at the Central Kansas Fairgrounds in Eisenhower Park. Admission is free.

The event will resemble last year's "Mingle," which had three stages of live entertainment, 60 business booths, food vendors and children's activities.

### In Wamego:

**Wamego Tulip Festival** — Handcrafted items, entertainment, children's activities, and food court. April 17, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., April 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wamego City Park. For more information, call (785) 456-7849 or visit [www.wamegochamber.com](http://www.wamegochamber.com).

.com on the Internet.

### In Leavenworth:

**Fort Leavenworth Homes Tour and Frontier Army Encampment** — Annual tour of several historic homes at Fort Leavenworth and a frontier Army encampment and re-enactment. April 17, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Grant and Kearney avenues.

For more information, call (913) 684-3186 or (800) 844-4114 or visit [www.army.mil/museum](http://www.army.mil/museum) on the Internet.

**Yard sale** — Fort Leavenworth's post-wide yard sale is scheduled for April 24.

### In Bonner Springs:

**Prairie Winds Kite Festival** — April 17-18, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day, 630 Hall of Fame Drive, National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame. For more information, call (913) 721-1075 or visit [www.ahallof-fame.com](http://www.ahallof-fame.com) on the Internet.

### In Arkansas City:

**Native American Pow-wow** — Traditional Native American pow-wow with traditional dances, food, and arts and crafts. April 17, 2 to 11 p.m., 712 W. Washington, Agri-Business Building. For more information, call (620) 442-7984.

**Stone Bridges of Cowley County Tour** — Visit historic stone bridges, chuckwagon dinner, artwork and photo opportunities with Gary and Shannon Gackstatter, occasionally barns included. April 17, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., 525 N. Fourth, Denton Art Center. For more information, call (620) 442-5895 or visit [www.dentonartcenter.com](http://www.dentonartcenter.com) on the Internet.

### In Ellsworth:

**End of the Trail Ranch Rodeo, Ranch House Show, Chuckwagon Dinner** — Kansas ranch cowboys compete, calf branding, doctoring, wild cow milking, sorting, steer roping, ranch house competition, historic chuckwagon dinner. April 16, from 6 to 10 p.m., April 17, from 9 a.m. to 10 p.m., and April 18 from 9 a.m. to noon, 221 W. Douglas, El-Kan Rodeo Grounds. For more information, call (785) 472-4071 or visit [www.cityofellsworth.org/Chamber.htm](http://www.cityofellsworth.org/Chamber.htm) on the Internet.

### In Olathe:

**Civil War on the Border** — Battles, artillery, soldiers, period vendors, and stagecoach rides. April 17-18, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., 1100 Kansas City Road, Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and Farm. For more information, call (913) 971-5111 or visit [www.mahaffie.com](http://www.mahaffie.com) on the Internet.

### In Topeka:

**Territorial Kansas Sesquicentennial (150th) Event** — The exhibit tells the story of the bloody struggle between abolitionists such as John Brown and proslavery settlers in Kansas Territory, through Oct. 1, Kansas Museum of History, 6425 SW Sixth Avenue. For more information, call (785) 272-8681 or visit [www.ksmhs.org](http://www.ksmhs.org) on the Internet.

### In Cottonwood Falls:

**Prairie Drifter Sunset Tour** — Open air two-hour ride in 1958 grain truck through 20 miles of scenic Flint Hills back roads. Friday and Saturday nights only, through Oct. 31. For more information, call (620) 273-6763 or visit [www.grandcentralhotel.com](http://www.grandcentralhotel.com) on the Internet.

## Times gone by



Civil War Re-enactors fire a replica of a Civil War cannon during a re-enactment similar to one coming up at Fort Scott National Historic Site April 17-18.

## Re-enactment just one Fort Scott attraction

### Special to the Post

Fort Scott today is a National Historic Site operated by the National Park Service, but a Civil War Encampment April 17-18 will take visitors back to the early days of the fort and America's frontier.

Union Army re-enactors are scheduled to set up camp at the historic Army post for a weekend of period music, living history demonstrations and historic portrayals.

Fort Scott was garrisoned by the U.S. Army on May 30, 1853. It sold off the buildings at the outpost assisted with the protection of settlers on the Indian frontier.

After the U.S. western border pushed farther west, the Army abandoned the fort in 1853. It sold off the buildings at an auction.

Local settlers bought the buildings and the former military post became the center of one of the largest towns in the Kansas territory.

During the Civil War, Fort Scott served as a U.S. Army district headquarters, a supply depot, a training center and a recruitment station.

After the Civil War, Fort Scott continued to be one of the largest cities in the four-state area of Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas and Oklahoma.

Fort Scott is located on the Frontier Military Scenic Byway in Kansas -- Kansas Highway 69, the former mili-

tary road along the eastern edge of the state that connected Fort Leavenworth to Fort Scott.

The opening of the West more than 160 years ago brought the first visitors to Fort Scott. They have been coming back ever since.

Today it is difficult to differentiate between Fort Scott the town and the historic fort. The frontier fort, which was one of the original military gatekeepers to the American west, and the town with its population of 8,500 (15,000 counting those living in the surrounding area) offer a range of attractions and events for all ages.

### Coming events:

**Townwide Garage Sale** — April 17. Free map showing location of more than 90 garage sales.

**Frontier Garrison Life** — May 29-31. An experience depicting 1840's military life and the events surrounding the establishment of Kansas territory, including living history demonstrations, skits, speakers and history portrayals. For more information, call (620) 223-0310.

**Town Company Melodrama** — May 28-July 17. Light-hearted fun for the entire family, complete with boozing and hissing the villain and cheering for the hero and heroine.



Re-enactors wearing clothing similar to what would have been worn during America's Civil War era take part in an event at the Fort Scott National Historic Site.



Old Glory still waves on the parade field at Fort Scott.

## FBI chief, two senators to lecture

Landon spring series to feature Mueller, Roberts, Daschle

### Special to the Post

MANHATTAN — The director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and two prominent U.S. senators will deliver Landon lectures at Kansas State University this spring. Robert Mueller, head of the FBI will speak at 1:30 p.m. April 13 in Bramlage Coliseum. Sen. Pat Roberts (R-Kan.) will speak at 9:30 a.m. May 3 in McCain Auditorium and Sen.

Tom Daschle (D-S.D.) will speak at 9:30 a.m. May 10 in the auditorium.

"Homeland security is an issue that is affecting everyone in the United States, so we're pleased to have the man in charge of the nation's top crime-fighting agency ... as a Landon Lecturer," said Charles Reagan, chair of the Landon Lecture Series.

Mueller became the sixth director of the FBI in 2001, just a few days before the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. He brings more than 30

years of legal experience, mainly in the public sector, to the job.

Roberts will be the third K-State alum to speak in the prestigious lecture series. He also is heavily involved in the nation's war on terrorism.

He chairs the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence and is the senior member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, where he chairs the Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities.